



# THE INDEPENDENT

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## SIX DAYS OF ACCUSATION AND COUNTER-CLAIM: HOW THE STORY OF A TRAGIC ERROR UNFOLDED

**Wednesday 14 April, 3.53pm:** Belgrade claims Nato missiles hit a refugee convoy in Kosovo, killing 64 people and wounding 20 in two attacks. 'We have no information about these reports,' says the Nato spokesman, Jamie Shea.

**Wednesday, 6.06pm:** Nato sources unofficially admit their aircraft were in the area. By 7pm Nato says: 'We can confirm we attacked a military convoy in the area.' Jamie Shea later says: 'Nato doesn't attack civilian targets, full-stop.'

**Wednesday, 8.05pm:** Tony Blair says: 'We cannot take at face value any claim made by the Serb authorities.' An hour later, the Pentagon says that there was an 'indication' that Serbs attacked the convoy.



**Thursday, 8am:** Nato says civilian casualties may have occurred after planes attacked a convoy of vehicles. By 11am the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, says: 'It is not possible to guarantee there will be no civilian casualties.'

**Thursday, 12.30pm:** Nato admits one of its planes mistakenly bombed a refugee convoy. By 2pm it gives details of a 'tragic accident' and plays a recorded interview with a US F-16 pilot. By Sunday, it says the recording 'may be unrelated'.

**Yesterday:** Nato provides what it says is a full account of the bombing. It admits to 'intelligence failure' and provides graphic details to show its pilots were involved in numerous air strikes. Concedes there could have been civilian casualties.

# The convoy massacre: Nato offers its evidence

By STEPHEN CASTLE in Brussels

IN AN unprecedented act of openness in wartime, Nato yesterday used dramatic cockpit video and a wealth of forensic detail to lay to rest arguments over how alliance warplanes could have bombed civilian Kosovans at two separate sites. It produced a US Air Force commander from Nato's theatre of operations at Aviano air base in Italy at a crowded press conference in Brussels. Demonstrating the alliance's determination to bring to a close Nato's biggest public relations disaster of the four-week air campaign, he gave an apparently full and frank description of how F-16 and Jaguar aircraft targeted two different convoys near the town of Djakovica.

Brigadier General Dan Leaf gave a detailed account of last Wednesday's tragedy, using video imagery from aircraft and a transcript of pilots' radio conversations. The flight-suited general, who has flown many combat missions over Yugoslavia, said he had spent five days assembling and analysing the evidence of the day Nato warplanes attacked two target areas in Kosovo, dropping nine 500lb laser-guided bombs. He said: 'It is possible there were

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civilian casualties at both locations.' The explanation did clear up some of the worst contradictions between Nato's first muddled account, the evidence produced by Serbian television and statements from refugees who survived the bombing. But the general was still unable to identify exactly how many civilian vehicles were hit by Nato planes, and how many casualties had been caused. 'This is a very complicated scenario and we will never be able to establish all the exact details,' he said. General Leaf also suggested that some of the destruction seen on Serbian television, and witnessed by bussed-in Western reporters, may have been caused by the Serbs themselves. 'I cannot explain the

bodies shown on Serb TV,' he said. Belgrade claimed that Nato killed more than 80 ethnic Albanian refugees, though the journalists taken to the scene said many bodies appeared to have been killed by machine-guns or mortars. The general accepted responsibility for some of the casualties and appealed for the public's understanding. 'The world knows that battle is a complex, dynamic and demanding environment,' he said. 'For all our efforts, we will never be perfect. We don't claim to be perfect, we claim to be dedicated to do the best job possible.' Nato's newest and fullest explanation of the convoy bombing raised fresh questions about air crews' ability to identify targets safely. Reports that pilots from RAF Harriers had warned that civilian vehicles were among one of the convoys have not been denied. One source said this information may have been sent to the airborne command and control centre rather than direct to the F-16 pilots involved in the attack, and that this fatal delay was one reason for the disaster. General Leaf admitted that on 14 April, Nato made two



Brigadier General Dan Leaf presenting the US Air Force's analysis of the day Nato warplanes attacked a refugee convoy

Reuters

separate attacks on convoys. That explained the confusion over the release last week of a tape of a pilot's debriefing, produced by Nato, which referred only to one attack at 10.30am. That was north-west of Djakovica by an F-16 which had been ordered to find and attack enemy forces. The pilot saw 'very graphic and very horrifying' evidence of burning villages, then watched figures leave one house, get into a vehicle and drive away. He concluded that the vehicle was involved in the attacks. He launched a laser-guided GBU-12 bomb, and called in a second aircraft. After a 10-

minute reconnaissance, the second aircraft made a second attack on vehicles parked in a C-shaped farm courtyard. Yesterday Nato still insisted it was correct to target these vehicles. The second, more serious incident was south-east of Djakovica, where a very large convoy was spotted by another F-16 pilot. General Leaf said the '20 vehicles were uniform in shape and colour. They were maintaining steady spacing and pace, characteristic of military movement'. When the pilot consulted airborne command and control, he was told: 'We just received word that this is a VJ [Yugoslav army] convoy'. That attack

began at 12.19 and was suspended at 12.58, after the command and control centre in Italy ordered new checks on the identity on the composition of the convoy. The attack was aborted when more sophisticated reconnaissance from an OA-10 aircraft revealed that there was a mix of civilian and military vehicles. General Leaf said he watched the video tape of the attack with the crews involved, and they agreed 'it is possible these were tractor-type vehicles', but he added: 'From the attack altitude, to the naked eye they appeared to be military vehicles.'

## 'Blair was ready to offer Lib Dems deal



Ashdown: Secret talks

TONY BLAIR told Paddy Ashdown on polling day in 1997 that he would form a coalition government with the Liberal Democrats even if he won a bigger than expected majority. The two leaders secretly discussed detailed plans for 'a partnership of principle' in the year before the general election, according to the new biography of Peter Mandelson, who acted as Mr Blair's go-between with the Liberal Democrats. The disclosure will fuel speculation that Mr Blair will seek

to form a coalition with the Liberal Democrats if his majority is reduced at the next election. It will anger cabinet ministers opposed to close links, including John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Jack Straw, who were kept out of the discussions with the Liberal Democrats in the run-up to the 1997 election. Under the secret Blair-Ashdown agreement, three or more Liberal Democrats, including Mr Ashdown, would

have joined the Cabinet, while other Liberal Democrats became junior ministers. The plan was to be implemented in the event of a hung parliament and if Labour won an overall majority of up to 50 seats. Mr Blair was still expecting a majority of that order when he spoke to Mr Ashdown on polling day. However, Mr Blair went much further during a telephone conversation with the Liberal Democrat leader on polling day, according to Donald MacIntyre's book, *Mandel-*

*son: The Biography*. Mr Blair believed that 'a larger than expected majority would increase rather than reduce the possibility of doing things' with the Liberal Democrats. In other words, it might actually be easier to bring them into a coalition. Mr Ashdown agreed. But by the next morning Mr Blair had won an unexpected majority of 179 and his mood appeared to have changed. Mr Ashdown, too, was hesitant. He refused to walk into Downing Street until a deal had

been done, which made negotiations on the morning after election day more difficult. The Liberal Democrat leader shared Mr Blair's doubts, on the grounds that the people had voted overwhelmingly for a Labour government. Although the plan was shelved, Mr Blair stressed that he wanted closer co-operation with the Liberal Democrats, and instead invited them to sit on a cabinet committee on constitutional reform. The truth was 'out', Review Front

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"There is no escape. They are coming at us from three directions. We are trapped and we need Nato's help"

**Sokol Bashota,**  
a member of the KLA

"Bill Clinton hopes that Milosevic will capitulate, give up the whole of Yugoslavia. We will not allow this. This is a strategic place"

**Boris Yeltsin**

"The Serbian border is allegedly open but no one's crossing... the Serbs are basically stopping people and preventing them from reaching the border"

**UN spokesman Kris Janowski**

"Each renewed act of ethnic cleansing is, for me, just one more reason to stand firm, to insist this policy of racism and devastation will be defeated"

**Tony Blair**

"We appeal to President Milosevic, the Kosovo Albanians, NATO, EU and US leaders to search for a political solution"

**Open letter from**  
**Serb intellectuals**

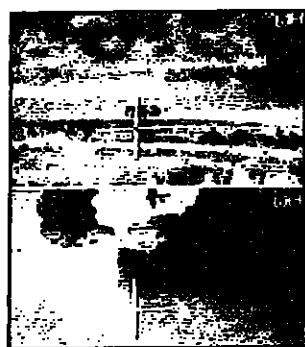
"We are continuing with the same strategy... the alliance has no plans to go into an invasion, as you put it, to Yugoslavia"

**Javier Solana,**  
Nato Secretary-General

# Two attacks were made on convoy

## REFUGEE ATTACK

By MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington



Before and after video images taken from two F-16 aircraft during attacks last Wednesday, and presented in Brigadier General Dan Leaf's briefing yesterday

THE BRIEFING by Brigadier General Dan Leaf cleared up some aspects of Wednesday's attack on the refugee convoy but left others unclear, some perhaps because they cannot be established without ground access, others for strategic or organisational reasons.

He confirmed Pentagon statements that there were two attacks: the first on a three-vehicle military convoy north-west of Djakovica; the second, 10 minutes later on a long convoy south-east of Djakovica. Nine bombs were dropped: two in the first attack, seven - it may be concluded - in the second. The first attack involved one aircraft, an F-16 coded Bear-31. It was the voice of this pilot heard recounting his attack on a tape played to reporters on Thursday. The unidentified pilot described tracking an identifiable military vehicle as it set buildings on fire. He dropped the bombs as it linked up with two other military vehicles. The attack was near a "C-shaped" building which General Leaf said was identical to a building in film broadcast by Serb television. One bomb did not hit the target and may have caused civilian casualties.

The second attack was co-ordinated by the first aircraft but executed by at least two others and also involved communication and reconnaissance planes. It took place only after "extensive discussion". The de-

cision was taken on the basis of criteria including the fact that the convoy appeared to be behaving like a military one. But no final decision was taken until the communications aircraft messaged that it had been identified as a "VJ" - ie Yugoslav army - convoy.

The first bomb missed the "target vehicle", the others hit targets. Stressing that the tapes had been extensively played and analysed by the pilots afterwards, General Leaf said: "These could have been tractor-trailer type vehicles but to the naked eye they appeared to be military vehicles", though he noted that visual identification was only one element.

It was only at that stage that an intelligence analyst's report, apparently from the planes' Aviano base, sowed doubt, noting that the convoy was "unusually long". The Bear-31 pilot asked the reconnaissance plane to make an identification with its special binoculars. Bear-31 "overheard the discussion" on the plane.

General Leaf did not divulge its contents and immediately called for all flights to be suspended. It appeared the convoy was "mixed" - military and refugee vehicles. Asked to confirm if a British Harrier had warned that the convoy was at least in part civilian, General Leaf said a warning had come "at the same time" as that from Aviano, but

the F-16 pilot had "no communications with the aircraft in question". As to the aftermath, "we cannot determine the exact status of the vehicles or the casualties," General Leaf said.

Three points can be extrapolated from the information provided by the general. First, the Pentagon was right and wrong when it separated the attacks. The tape related only to the first attack, in which an identifiable military convoy was bombed by Bear-31. But it was this pilot who ordered the attack suspended when he had doubts about the military nature of the second, exceptionally long, convoy. In that respect, the unhappiness of the pilot and his squadron - to which the Pentagon alluded when it separated the two attacks - was justified. The Nato spokesman was not entirely wrong to have played the tape, however, because the plane was involved in both attacks.

Second, the Serbian media version conflated the attacks, showing film of damage from the "legitimate" attack and carnage from the convoy bombing as though the location was one and the same.

Third, while Nato concedes bombs may have killed refugees in the second convoy, it is still not accepting Serbian claims that its planes were responsible for the deaths of all, or indeed any, of the refugees.



Kosovo Albanian refugees reach out for bread in Kukes, Albania yesterday

Anja Niedringhaus/EPA

# Urgent food aid needed for 840,000

THE WORLD Food Programme (WFP) issued an emergency appeal yesterday for rations for starving Kosovar refugees after receiving "military and humanitarian intelligence" that the elimination of the remaining Albanian population of the province was underway.

"The intelligence suggests that 840,000 people remaining inside Kosovo are being forced to march to neighbouring borders," said Heather Hill of the UN agency. "We understand they are being driven on by tank fire where they show reluctance to move."

The intelligence assessment received by the WFP suggests

that Serbian ethnic cleansing of Kosovo appeared to be approaching its final stages yesterday.

The WFP refused to identify its sources - and there appears to be some confusion over the number of Albanian civilians remaining in Kosovo who are being defended by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) in the north. However, the appeal was expected to be taken seriously last night.

The aid organisation has asked America, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Denmark and Norway for urgent help. Ms Hill said it had

## RELIEF EFFORT

By STEVE BOGGAN in Tirana

asked for six million humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), meals ready to eat (MREs) and high-energy biscuits to feed a large influx of people heading towards the Kosovar borders with Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia.

"We understand they are in five groups," Ms Hill said. "There are 175,000 near the border with Montenegro and 100,000 with Macedonia," she said. "The remaining 565,000 are thought to be in three more groups. Some have fled into the

forests. We do not know their precise location but these, too, are thought to be coming under artillery fire."

It has been known for some time that hundreds of thousands of Kosovars have been hiding from Serb forces - The Independent reported yesterday that 250,000 were being protected by a 10,000-strong KLA force in the north. The WFP's intelligence, if correct, would appear to suggest that many of these are now on the move.

There was uncertainty, too, over the whereabouts of thousands of ethnic Albanians who have been heading for the Albanian border at Morini. More than 30,000 crossed at the weekend and then, suddenly, the flow stopped on Sunday afternoon. Only 28 people crossed the border yesterday, some speaking of seeing rows of cars and tractors, but no refugees.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe said last night it could not confirm the WFP figures. "If this intelligence is available, then it hasn't been given to us," said Andrea Angel, OSCE spokeswoman. "We have people inside

the host countries and at the border but not in Kosovo. It would be unwise for us to speculate."

The WFP said it had not yet received replies from donor countries to its appeal, but it expected them to be positive. "This will give us enough food to care for people during their first three or four days, then we hope to give them access to better cooking facilities," said Ms Hill.

Sources from Nato's humanitarian Operation Allied Harbour said it had received a welcome addition to the aid airlift yesterday when Ukraine offered the use of a helicopter.

## CONFLICT BRIEFING: DAY 27

■ UNHCR plans to move 40,000 refugees sleeping rough in bad weather in northern Albania, with the help of Albanian forces, to a point 15 miles from the border. They will then be airlifted by US forces to camps at Tirana, Shkroda and Elbasan.

■ On Sunday, 688 refugees were flown out of Skopje in Macedonia, 340 to Belgium and 348 to France.

■ Belgium, France, Austria and Turkey have scheduled evacuation flights for today. ■ Nato said it had evidence of 43 mass grave sites in Kosovo, some dug by Kosovo Albanian prisoners forced by Serbs to bury their countrymen.

■ The delivery of 24 US Apache helicopter gunships, expected in Albania from Italy yesterday, was delayed at least another day by severe rainstorms.

■ Nato said 30,000 soldiers would be sent to Kosovo when the air campaign was over.

■ A Danish F-16 fighter patrolling Bosnian airspace made an emergency landing at Sarajevo airport due to an engine problem.

■ France said it was awaiting Nato approval for air drops of aid into Kosovo. Nato fears low altitude operations could be open to enemy fire and Serb forces could seize aid meant for Albanians.

■ UNHCR estimated that more than 600,000 people had left Kosovo since Nato began the air assault on 24 March.

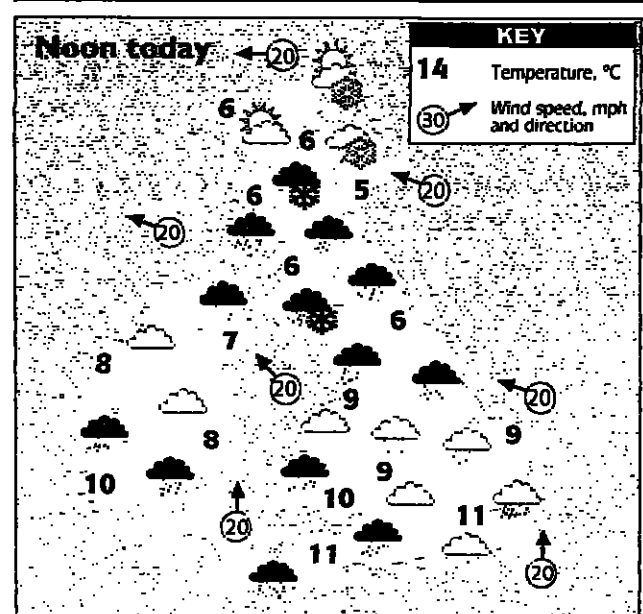
■ Bulgaria's leaders agreed to approve a request from Nato to allow its planes to use Bulgarian air space for strikes on Yugoslavia.

■ The US was seeking Nato support for cutting off seaborne shipments of oil into Yugoslavia.

■ Serbia no longer has the ability to refine crude oil.

■ Property of the Serbian elite was being targeted in Nato airstrikes.

## BRITAIN TODAY



## FORECAST

General situation: Much of England and Wales will be breezy with rain, many of them heavy, especially in the south-west. Northern parts will still feel quite chilly in the strengthening wind, but temperatures in the south will return to something nearer normal for the time of year. Northern Ireland will also be overcast, wet and windy. Rain will edge into southern Scotland, falling as snow over the hills. Northern Scotland will stay very cold with sunny spells and wintry showers. London: SE 6, E Anglia, Midlands, E England: Rain this morning then drier for a time before more rain arrives this afternoon. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F). Channel Is, Cent S & SW England, Wales: Increasingly windy with heavy rain moving in this morning, leading into the afternoon, but turning more showery this evening. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F). Cent N & NE England: Rather cold and windy with rain moving in and some snow for a time on the hills. A fresh southerly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F). NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Early rain clearing for a time, but it will stay windy with more rain later this afternoon. A freshening southerly wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F). NE & NW Scotland, Aberdeen, N & W Isles: Chilly and windy with sunny spells and wintry showers. A strong easterly wind. Max temp 3-5C (41-46F). SE & SW Scotland, Edinburgh, Glasgow: Cloudy and windy with rain spreading northwards, falling as snow over the hills. A fresh easterly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F). N Ireland: Windy with a good deal of cloud and spells of heavy rain. A strong easterly wind. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

## OUTLOOK

Wednesday will be windy with scattered heavy showers. Northern and eastern Scotland will have longer periods of rain. Scotland will keep a lot of cloud and rain on Thursday. Other areas will be brighter with a mix of sun and showers.

## TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout. Leytonstone: Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 21st December. Bristol: M5 J18-19. Major roadworks on Avonmouth bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J15 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 22nd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Trillick Viaduct (A6109) & J34 Trillick Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield: Contraflow is reduced to two lanes southbound until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd.

## LIGHTING UP

	8.36pm	to 6.09am
Belfast	8.14pm	to 5.58am
Birmingham	8.14pm	to 6.03am
Glasgow	8.33pm	to 5.58am
London	8.05pm	to 5.53am
Manchester	8.18pm	to 5.57am
Newcastle	8.19pm	to 5.50am

## HIGH TIDES

	AM	PM	HT
Avonmouth	11.03	13.2	11.19 12.8
Cork	9.25	4.5	9.49 4.4
Dumport	9.43	5.4	10.03 5.3
Dover	2.33	6.8	3.01 6.6
Don Laughaire	3.04	4.2	3.36 4.2
Falmouth	9.14	5.2	9.34 5.1
Glasgow	4.05	3.5	4.36 3.4
Harwich	3.24	4.2	3.50 4.0
Holyhead	1.30	5.6	2.18 5.6
Hull (Albert Dock)	10.01	8.6	10.26 8.7
Kings Lynn	9.59	6.9	10.23 6.7
Lisbon	6.21	5.5	6.48 5.5
Liverpool	2.45	9.5	3.12 9.4
Millford Haven	10.06	6.9	10.27 6.7
Newquay	9.00	6.9	9.22 6.7
Portland	10.54	1.3	11.00 1.9
Portsmouth	2.55	4.7	3.23 4.9
Pwllheli	11.58	4.3	12.21 4.7
Scarborough	7.55	5.7	8.23 5.7
Widnes	2.56	3.3	3.32 3.3

## AIR QUALITY

	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>
London	Good	Good
South East	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C. England	Good	Good
N. England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N. Ireland	Good	Good

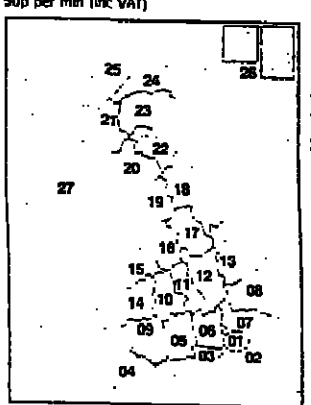
## SUN & MOON

Sun rises:	05:56
Sun sets:	20:05
Moon rises:	09:16
Moon sets:	00:21

First quarter: April 22

## WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5000 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).



## YESTERDAY

	Low	High	Max	Min
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Calgary	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Edmonton	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Regina	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Saskatoon	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)

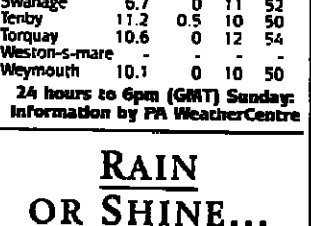
## EXTREMES

	Low	High	Max	Min
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Calgary	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Edmonton	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Regina	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Saskatoon	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)

## THE WORLD

	Low	High	Max	Min
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Calgary	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Edmonton	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Regina	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Saskatoon	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)

## THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY



## THE WORLD YESTERDAY

	Low	High	Max	Min
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Calgary	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Edmonton	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Regina	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Saskatoon	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)
Winnipeg	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)	13C (55F)

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Kosovar women and children fleeing from Mitrovica to Albania. Nato fears that thousands of Kosovar men and boys, some only 12 years old, have been systematically rounded up and killed by the Serbs Paul Lowe/Magnum

# Slaughter of the 62 sons of Bela Crkva

THIS IS the story of how a village was destroyed. This is what that antiseptic phrase "ethnic cleansing" means when it is applied to real people, in this case a small village on Kosovo's western border.

A handful escaped to Kukes in Albania to tell their tale to Human Rights Watch and a French journalist. Their experience may have been repeated in thousands of villages of which we know nothing yet.

If there are any doubts that the liquidation of the Albanian population of Kosovo was not planned well in advance of Nato's air campaign, the story of Bela Crkva nails that lie; for the Serbs' response to the first bomb was immediate, coordinated and absolutely thorough, and showed no sign of improvisation.

Bela Crkva - which means white church - was a small, wholly Albanian settlement of a few hundred souls on the banks of the Bellaj river until the morning of 25 March, when its life was terminated.

At 3am, hours after Nato



The Serb soldiers found them there at dawn, isolated and unarmed. This soggy huddle of humanity shivering under the bridge, then, was a good example of the "terrorist menace" that Serbia's smooth and television-friendly representatives have spoken of.

The families of Clirim Zhunij and Xhemal Spahiu, in the smaller group, were dispatched first, 12 of them.

The village doctor, Nesim Popaj, pleaded for the lives of the main group with the commander, a man the survivors recalled as being about 35 and having a "scrunched-up mouth". The villagers were simple people, the doctor said. They had no connection with the guerrilla fighters of the KLA.

The commander replied by stepping with his boot on to the prone figure of the doctor's teenage nephew, and, after deliberating for a moment, blasting the boy's brains out.

"You are terrorists," he said, "and Nato will have to save you." He then pointed his gun at Dr Popaj and shot him dead.

## ANATOMY OF A MASSACRE

BY MARCUS TANNER

too. Now began the separation of the sexes of which so many Kosovo refugees have spoken, a practice the Serbs honed in the killing fields of Bosnia and applied with infamous attention to detail in the town of Srebrenica.

There, the Serbs, under the command of General Ratko Mladic, divided the sexes after over-running the Muslim town in July 1995, sparing the women but executing all the men and burying them in mass graves. There, too, the category of "men" included boys of 10.

The practice goes back further than Srebrenica. In the eastern Croatian city of Vukovar, which the Yugoslav army captured in November 1991, the commander, Colonel Veselin Sljivancanin, divided the sexes. The women were told to walk to the nearest town in Croatia. But the Serbs took the men, including more than 200 wounded patients in Vukovar hospital,

to a sheep farm at the nearby village of Ovcar, gunned them down and buried the bodies in a pit.

There is a meticulously observed pattern to Serb ethnic cleansing, consisting of four distinct stages: concentration - surrounding and shelling an area in order to drive the population from their homes into a small controllable area; de-capitation - the murder of the community spokesmen, such as priests, teachers, lawyers and politicians; separation - the division of the sexes; and liquidation - the execution of men of fighting age. Bela Crkva, then, is no accident. This is how the Serbs wage war.

The women and men of this village were divided into two groups, "men" including anyone aged 12 and above. The men were ordered to undress until they were naked and hand over whatever money and documents they had on them, including their wedding rings. The Serb soldiers told the women to get out, by walking along the railroad track to the nearest village at Zrze, a mile away.

But the men were not taken to Zrze and what we know of their fate beside the banks of the Bellaj we know only from the accounts of the women who heard the sound of machine-guns opening fire, and from a few male survivors, who lay hidden in the river among the corpses of their neighbours and relatives. Two survivors were interviewed in Kukes, in northern Albania, by Human Rights Watch. Another was interviewed separately by a French journalist.

One of them said: "I was lucky. I was in front of the group. I was shot in the shoulder and flew into the stream, where I pretended to be dead. About 20 dead bodies fell on top of me. They then shot into the pile of bodies to be sure they were dead. They shot people one by one, but I didn't get shot because they didn't see me."

His companions gave a similar account.

Nathaniel Herzberg of *Le Monde* spoke to a third survivor. He also told of how the men from the village were ordered to strip naked and hand over their valuables, and of how the Serbs then opened fire with machine-guns. And he also survived by falling into the stream and bobbing, apparently lifelessly, among the corpses for several minutes until the Serbs had left.

He thought about 40 had been killed but he probably underestimated the death toll. Human Rights Watch has compiled a list of 62 men from Bela Crkva who were killed on 25 March. The organisation said several women later went back from Zrze to the bank of the river to look for survivors. Two days after the massacre the women returned again to bury their men. They had to work two nights in a row to bury all the bodies.

The full report on the massacre at Bela Crkva can be found on [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org).

## DOSSIER OF ATROCITIES

BRITAIN WILL today hand a dossier detailing more than 80 possible massacre sites in Kosovo to Judge Louise Arbour, head of the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

Ms Arbour will be in London for a meeting with the Foreign Secretary Robin Cook to discuss how Serbs accused of ethnic cleansing and murder can be brought to trial.

The information has been collected by British officials, and some of it will not be made public to protect sources. It will include eyewitness accounts of killings of civilians by Yugoslav servicemen and paramilitaries. Ms Arbour will also be given a list of names of suspects.

The tribunal, based in the Hague, was set up in 1993 to deal with perpetrators of atrocities in Bosnia.

KIM SENGUPTA

## War aim is protectorate in Kosovo, says Blair

### RECONSTRUCTION

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

ANY LAST prospect of a compromise end to the Balkan war vanished yesterday as Britain said Kosovo should be turned into a protectorate under the United Nations and other international bodies before moving to possible independence.

In separate but complementary statements, Tony Blair and the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, formally buried the Rambouillet package, which envisaged an autonomous Kosovo within Yugoslavia's present borders, and told President Slobodan Milosevic he had lost the province for good.

Addressing the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London, Mr Blair told Belgrade an international force would enter Kosovo "to secure the land for the people for whom it belongs". Not once did he mention partition, which has been mooted as a possible outcome, or even the most nominal sovereignty of Yugoslavia over the province as envisaged at Rambouillet. Instead, he pledged "the dispossessed refugees of Kosovo will be brought back into possession of what is rightfully theirs". The Prime Minister's language is the clearest

Western acknowledgement yet that, after its suffering, Kosovo's Albanian majority is entitled to self-determination.

Mr Cook set out the details in the Commons. Until democratic institutions had been rebuilt, he said, Kosovo would be administered by bodies including the UN, EU and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which ran the ill-fated peace monitoring mission in Kosovo.

Reconstruction of the province, whose cost could top \$10bn, would take the combined efforts of all these bodies, Mr Cook said. He expressed Britain's preference for a Security Council mandate that would turn Kosovo into a UN protectorate, which would also help to mend fences with Russia, a permanent member of the council, after the strains of recent weeks.

Those strains were again evident yesterday as Moscow accused Nato of plotting a land invasion of Kosovo, and President Boris Yeltsin said that he would not allow Mr Milosevic to be defeated and see Nato take

de facto control of all Yugoslavia. Shortly before a phone conversation with President Bill Clinton in which he demanded an immediate end to the bombing, Mr Yeltsin said he could not abandon Mr Milosevic: "Bill Clinton hopes that ... Milosevic will capitulate, give up the whole of Yugoslavia. We will not allow this; this is a strategic place," Mr Yeltsin quoted Mr Yeltsin as saying.

Officially the allies deny any intention of toppling Mr Milosevic directly (though they hope the Serbian people will do it for them) and rule out a land war. The air campaign would continue "and we are winning", George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

That will remain the Nato line at least until after this weekend's summit in Washington, where any move in public to press a ground campaign could produce an embarrassing and open split among the 19 member-countries.

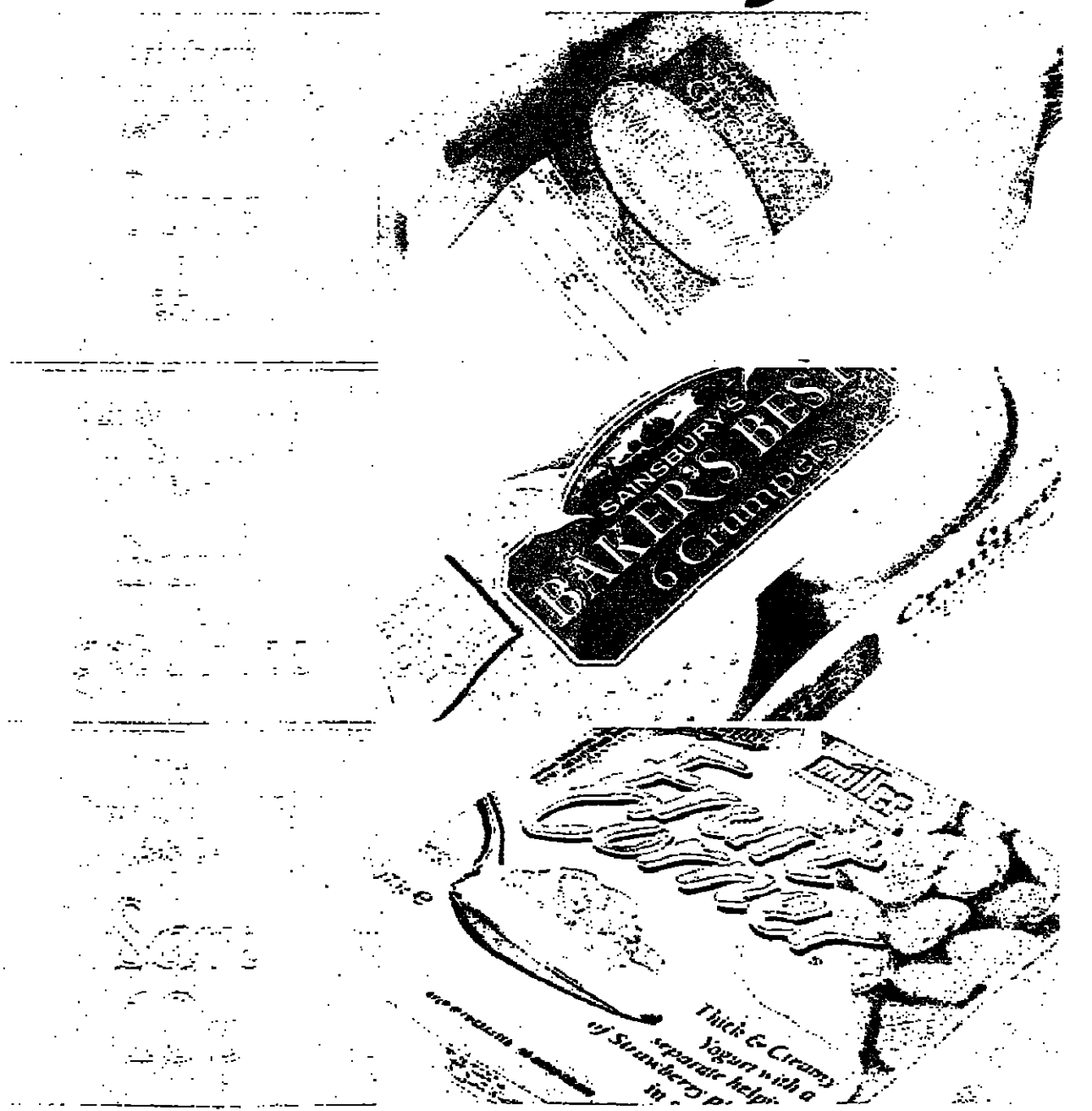
Increasingly, however, and even before the air war has produced a decisive breakthrough, the West is starting to turn to

the problem of rebuilding the Balkans once the conflict is over. In his speech to the EBRD - which was set up to help finance the transition of former Communist East Europe to market democracy - Mr Blair told his audience of bankers and politicians from the region that the reconstruction task would be massive. In Athens, the Greek Foreign Minister, George Papandreu, called for a "mini-Marshall Plan" to help Balkan economies recover.

Yesterday Croatia, Hungary and Bulgaria said the crisis, by hitting investment and tourism throughout the region, already would reduce economic growth by 1 per cent or more. Apart from the \$10bn (£2.5bn) or more bill in Kosovo itself, where entire towns and villages have been destroyed and industry and agriculture are in ruins, Nato leaders accept that a post-Milosevic Yugoslavia will need billions of dollars to rebuild bombed industry and infrastructure.

Next week EU foreign ministers meet their counterparts from Albania and Macedonia to study a boost in immediate and medium-term aid to the two countries bearing the brunt of the refugee crisis.

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## £583,000 to aid the refugees

### KOSOVO APPEAL



MONEY CONTINUES to pour into *The Independent* appeal to help the refugees of Kosovo. The total has reached an amazing £583,000.

"We had another good mail delivery on Monday morning and we're delighted that the money is still coming in," said a spokesman for the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), the body co-ordinating the appeal. "Independent readers' generosity is astounding."

The money will buy food,

blankets, first-aid, emergency shelters, sanitation and water purification equipment.

More than 600,000 Kosovar Albanians have fled or been forced from their homes by the Serbs. Nearly 140,000 are in massive camps at the Macedonian capital, Skopje, and 350,000 are in Albania.

Over the weekend, 40,000 more flooded in and thousands are living rough in the cold, wet hills in Kosovo. An estimated 15,000 refugees have been airlifted to countries in the West.

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# Military want Serb oil line blockade

## NATO STRATEGY

By Kim Sengupta

NATO COMMANDERS have asked for a naval blockade of Montenegro to stop shipments of oil for the Serbian regime.

The Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said yesterday that a blockade of the Adriatic coastal republic must be considered if the Alliance is to starve President Slobodan Milosevic's war machine of its fuel supply.

His views echo those of the US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and have growing support among Alliance strategists.

Nato said the month-long air campaign had destroyed 70 per cent of the Serbian oil reserves.

Military planners are urging allied governments to authorise the blockade of Montenegro, Serbia's fellow Yugoslav republic, to prevent him replenishing his stock.

Several Allied governments are believed to be extremely worried about such an escalation and point out it may need a specific UN mandate.

Mr Cook said: "If we are really to deprive Milosevic of fuel, it cannot be right to let oil in through the ports."

In Washington, Ms Albright said: "We are taking all kinds of steps to limit the ability of outside powers to deliver oil ...

There is a way to visit and search ships and we are looking at a variety of ways to tighten the screws on Milosevic economically."

Nato spokesman Jamie Shea said: "We are looking at what the options are to ... screw the tap down still further ... but we have to be consistent with international law."

Montenegro's government is pro-Western, opposes Serbia's ethnic cleansing and has already taken in almost 60,000 Albanian refugees from Kosovo.

But the government in Podgorica is under pressure from a vociferous pro-Belgrade faction and is said to be the target of a destabilisation campaign by Milosevic. Hardship caused by the civilian population there by allied action could strengthen the Milosevic faction.

Alliance strategists also feel their plans are being seriously undermined by lack of low-level attacks, say senior defence sources and that hampers efforts to combat Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo, one of the main aims of the strikes.

Although Nato has total air superiority at high altitude, the lower levels are fraught with peril.

Milosevic has largely saved his integrated air defence system from action and that could



US Army Airborne paratroopers arriving at Tirana yesterday as part of the build-up in Albania

be deadly for allied aircraft at low levels. Apache helicopter gunships could be highly effective against armour in Kosovo, but they would also be

vulnerable flying at low altitude. Military strategists say allied aircraft are having to carry out the attacks from a much higher level than they may

wish, which is one reason for "accidents" such as the bombing of a passenger train near Leskovac in southern Serbia and Nato's bombing of a

refugee column near Djakovica. Yesterday, 400 Muslim villagers fled over the border to Montenegro from Serbia saying

Serb soldiers ordered them to leave their homes. Military observers say this is part of the Serb process to establish a new front line.

## TIMETABLE: DAYS 26, 27

**Sunday 18 April**  
11pm: Tanjug says: Nato pilots bombed the area around Pristina four times  
11.55pm: Air raid alert sounds in Belgrade, Novi Sad, Nis and Cacak

**Monday 19 April**  
12.25am: Explosion heard in Novi Sad  
12.30am: Parachute 90 miles south of Belgrade, hit by three missiles  
12.35am: Nato planes attack the majority Hungarian region of Subotica, in northern Yugoslavia  
1.00am: Morini, the main crossing point for fleeing ethnic Albanian refugees into Albania closed after Belgrade's ending of diplomatic relations with Albania  
8.55am: Nato missiles strike a communications transmitter near Pristina  
9.00am: Blast heard near Boljevac in eastern Serbia  
10.00 am: Tass reports that Boris Yeltsin says he will not allow the West to defeat Slobodan Milosevic  
10.55am: Albania's ambassador to Nato accuses Serbia of shelling his country daily and says Albania is ready for wider attacks  
11.00am: Air raid reported on the Gales area of Kosovo  
1.00pm: Serb soldiers and Albanian border guards exchange gunfire on the Yugoslav-Albanian frontier  
5.30pm: Reports emerge that the Yugoslav army is expelling residents of three mainly Muslim villages in Montenegro. Bukelji, Dacici and Kalundjerski Laz, near the border with Kosovo and turning the villages into a second frontline

## THE BALKAN QUESTION

Why is Nato not arming the KLA?

ANY FORMAL decision to arm the KLA would have to be authorised by the US, which has specifically ruled that out.

Until it persuaded the KLA to sign the Rambouillet agreement, Washington regarded the KLA as little more than a terrorist grouping, too weak and undisciplined to be an effective fighting force. Those suspicions persist. Washington also fears victory for the KLA would strengthen Kosovan claims for independence from Serbia, a change of border that the US fears would lead to a free-for-all in the Balkans. The precedents are also not

KEY ISSUES BEHIND THE WAR EXPLAINED

encouraging. Arming Nicaraguan guerrillas without congressional approval got Reagan into the biggest trouble of his presidency; the arms supplied to the Afghan mujahidin following the Soviet invasion have subsequently been used by the Taliban and may have assisted anti-US terrorists. Official denials, however, do not mean the KLA will get no US-funded weapons: Washington repeatedly denied it had helped arm the Bosnian Muslims but was forced eventually to admit that it had.

MARY DEJEVSKY

# Kosovo invasion ruled out by French

## THE LAND WAR DEBATE

By John Lichfield in Paris

A CAPITULATION by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, is not essential to end Nato's war in the Balkans, according to French sources. Once the Serb military machine has been crushed, and is no longer capable of resistance, the West could achieve all its aims through a diplomatic solution brokered at the United Nations, which Belgrade would have to tolerate.

An international force, possibly under the flag of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, would then take possession of Kosovo and escort the refugees back to their homes.

Despite the deepening humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo, and increasing impatience in Western public opinion, French sources say Nato governments have no intention of mounting a land invasion. In Nato circles the view is that international forces would not enter Kosovo until a "semi-permissive environment" had been achieved: in other words when the Serbs recognise that they are powerless to resist, even though they do not formally surrender. Paris believes the alliance is

weeks away from achieving the necessary degree of destruction of Serb infrastructure and military capability. But it would take even longer to assemble a ground force capable of invading Kosovo.

Such an invasion would cause even greater suffering to the Kosovars. French officials say, and would risk causing a wider conflict in the region. More and more voices in France - as elsewhere - have been questioning this obsession with a limited war, in

which all the risks are run by Kosovars and Serb civilians (and the Serb military), but not by alliance soldiers, and only in a limited way by alliance pilots.

The newspaper, *Le Monde*, said at the weekend that the attritional approach favoured by Nato was failing. But French officials insist a combination of air-power and diplomacy can still win the war. They say that there is no fundamental difference between the allies on the need for a diplomatic endgame. Paris has been the most insis-

tent in calling for Russia to be kept in play, but all the allies accept that it is essential to avoid a Russian veto in the UN.

It is widely accepted, the French say, that the best solution would be a UN security council resolution, encapsulating the Rambouillet peace accord on Kosovo, which would be imposed *de facto* on Belgrade.

The French reject any suggestion that they are ready to break ranks to seek a diplomatic compromise. They say that France - which now has 60 planes operational in the Balkans, 20 more than Britain - is committed to continuing the air war for as long as necessary.

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# 'Failure of system' led to PC's death

BY IAN BURRELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

THE FATHER of a policewoman who was stabbed to death by a paranoid schizophrenic called yesterday for the creation of a national database of dangerous mentally-ill people, as a damning report into his daughter's death criticised police, health and social services.

Sidney Mackay made a scathing attack on the lack of communication between police and social services which led to his daughter Nina being fatally wounded as she tried to arrest community care patient Magdi Elgizouli in October 1997.

Mr Mackay, himself a former police chief superintendent, said that his daughter's death would become "another statistic" unless the system for dealing with dangerous mentally ill people was radically over-



Mackay: 'Too high a price'

hauled. He said: "The system wants to be re-organised root and branch. Community Care as we know it is window-dressing. It doesn't exist."

PC Mackay, 25, died after she was smashed through the front door of a flat in east London with a hydraulic ram. Elgizouli was waiting on the other side

of the door and plunged a 7in (17cm) kitchen knife into her chest up to the hilt.

The report was produced by a team led by Ken Dixon, the former director of social services in Camden. Speaking at its publication, Mr Mackay pointed out that 43 similar reports had been published since the introduction of community care in 1992. "There should be a central database on these individuals throughout the country," he said.

Nina's mother, Patricia, said the shortcomings of the community care system had caused "a committed, courageous policewoman and a dearly-loved daughter" to pay "far too high a price" for doing her job. The Dixon report concluded that her death was both "predictable" and "preventable".

The report was highly critical of the way professionals had

allowed Elgizouli's condition to deteriorate after switching his medication to self-administered tablets, which he rarely took. Friends and relatives of Elgizouli had witnessed "clear signs of his disturbance" but their views were "marginalised" by the professionals.

Westminster Social Services was also criticised for placing him in bed and breakfast hotels outside the borough, leading to a further deterioration in his condition. Yesterday Bill Roots, the chief executive of Westminster city council, said that "around 100" mentally ill people were still housed by the authority in bed and breakfasts outside the borough.

Elgizouli, who is now held in a top-security special hospital, was praised by the Dixon team for the help he gave to the inquiry. He said he was "deeply sorry" for what had happened.



Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness (left) and Gerry Adams arriving at Downing Street yesterday EPA/Gerry Penny

## SDLP anger at Trimble and Adams

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

ANGRY NATIONALIST SDLP leaders last night condemned David Trimble and Gerry Adams for blocking progress on the peace talks, but warned: "We will not let the peace process crash."

Seamus Mallon, giving vent to the frustration over months of delay, spoke after more than five hours of talks at Downing Street between Tony Blair, Bertie Ahern and the Ulster party leaders.

Crisis talks are to be reconvened early next week but yesterday there was no sign of compromise by either Sinn Féin or the Ulster Unionists over the refusal by Mr Trimble, the first minister in the new Assembly, to appoint an executive containing Mr Adams until the IRA starts decommissioning its arms.

Downing Street appeared to concede for the first time last night that the Hillsborough Declaration - agreed by Mr Blair and Mr Ahern - was now a dead letter. "Whether or not the Hillsborough Declaration is dead or alive is irrelevant, because the two issues at Hillsborough remain sequencing and choreography," said a Number 10 spokesman.

Mr Adams emerged from his session of talks with the two prime ministers still warning that the Good Friday Agreement was in "free fall", as he had done 24 hours earlier.

Mr Trimble and Mr Adams appeared to agree on only one thing - that they do not want to see the peace process "parked" until the autumn. The British and Irish governments are also against allowing a delay for six months but, as *The Independent* reported yesterday, it may become necessary if no breakthrough is reached next week, to avoid the talks running into the marching season and the European elections.

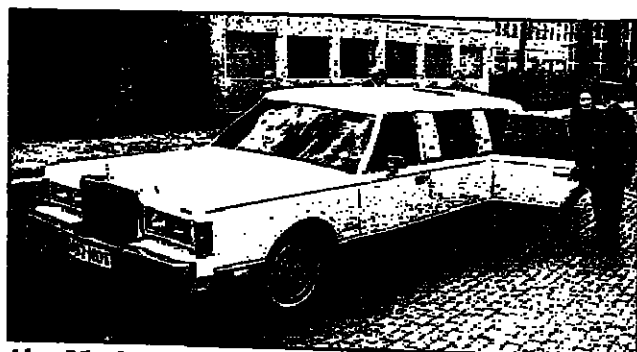
Mr Mallon and John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, welcomed the readiness of the two governments to keep the momentum of the talks going to find a way through the difficulties, without calling a halt. Mr Mallon accused Mr Trimble and Mr Adams of trying to hold the peace process to ransom for their "absolutist" positions. "Neither of them own this agreement. This agreement belongs to the island of Ireland, north and south. It was agreed by all the parties and the two governments."

"The people of Ireland have no intention of allowing this agreement to go by default, nor do we have any intention of allowing it to be destroyed by decommissioning. This agreement has been held to ransom by two absolute demands. There is no stomach left to destroy it. We are not going to allow it to crash."

Andrew Mackay, the Tory spokesman on Northern Ireland, urged the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach to proceed without Sinn Féin, but that course of action - although supported yesterday in the *Irish Times* - was rejected by the SDLP. Mr Hume said it was an "inclusive" agreement, and to exclude Sinn Féin would be a "great mistake".

Mr Ahern said he did not believe the agreement had reached "free fall" but the two governments had not been able to find a way around the problem. The Irish Government was also against "parking" the agreement. All the parties wanted the dispute concluded in the next few weeks, he said.

## 'Green' minister used stretch limo



Alan Meale (centre) and the Ford Lincoln limousine

A LABOUR environment minister has driven into trouble by arriving at a transport conference in a stretch limo to make a speech about the damage caused by "the way we travel".

Alan Meale was taken two miles from Peterborough train station on Friday in a Ford Lincoln, which does 17 miles to the gallon in the city.

Then he told a meeting of representatives of the Greater Peterborough Commerce, Training and Enterprise Council: "The way we travel is damaging our towns, harming our countryside and already chang-

BY CLARE GARNER

ing the climate of the planet." A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "I think his choice of car is sending out the wrong message."

"It is a bit inconsistent with the Government's policies on transport."

But a spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions defended Mr Meale's transport choices, saying: "The minister was able to make the majority of his journey by train."

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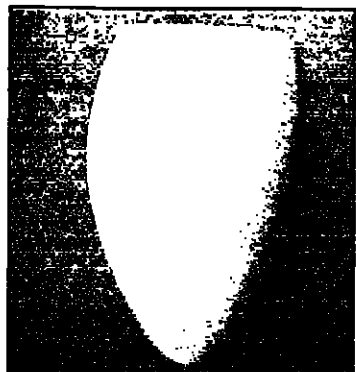
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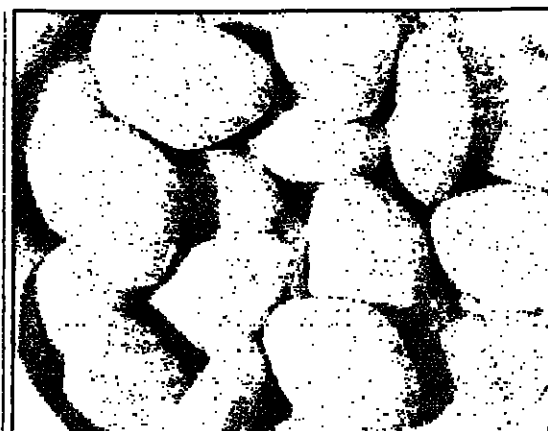
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**Divine Chocolate**  
To chocoholics all chocolate is divine, but this product, made by London-based Day Chocolate Company, also soothes your conscience. It shares its profits with African cocoa farmers.



**Ozone**  
A toothbrush for the next millennium comes in a new design with a central aperture to flush debris away. Its manufacturer, London-based Ozonex, claims that this feature makes it more hygienic.



**Viagra**  
Developed through work done to help sufferers of angina, Viagra has been responsible for a slew of terrible jokes, as well as helping the impotent. It was developed at laboratories at Sandwich in Kent.

# Teletubbies in century's hall of fame

THE UPLIFTING, the unlikely and the unusual were yesterday highlighted as the greatest innovations of our age when the latest list of Millennium products was announced.

The anti-impotence drug Viagra and the inexplicably popular children's characters the Teletubbies took their place along a landmine clearing machine and a new toothbrush.

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

Announcing the latest list of 201 products - selected by the Design Council - the Trade and Industry Secretary, Stephen Byers, said: "Some of the products announced today have earned millions of pounds for UK companies. Others provide solutions to world problems like landmines. It is a

truly varied list which reflects the talent and innovation in Britain."

The products, which join a list now totalling 634, were selected by a panel of judges, using six criteria. The judges were looking for products that opened new opportunities, challenged existing conventions, were environmentally responsible, applied new or

existing products, solved problems, and had clear user benefits. There was no explanation of which of these criteria the Teletubbies had fulfilled.

The Design Council said the awards served to highlight some of the best British products available. "They have to be highly innovative to have a chance," said a spokesman.

As well as prestige, the

awards are likely to have commercial benefits. As well as trumpeting them in advertising, companies will benefit from having their product showcased in the Millennium Dome, expected to be visited by hundreds of thousands - if not millions - of people. They will also be included in a travelling exhibition that will tour internationally.

The Ford Motor Company, whose Focus car was yesterday included on the list, said it is likely to use the award as part of its vehicle advertising.

A spokeswoman for the DTI added: "The inclusion of these products on the list is certainly going to let people know about them. It has already had that effect - a biodegradable credit card produced in Britain

and included on the list is now being produced in Canada as well. These products are going to be given a forum."

While the inclusion of some products may raise a smile, the headline items are joining more obviously "scientific" innovations. For instance, the FireAnt, produced by the Defence Research Agency at Farnborough, burns out landmines without

exploding them. Likewise, the Tricorder, a three-dimensional modelling system, can dramatically improve the rebuilding of human features after surgery.

Another chosen product is the Amazon Aquacharger, made by a firm in Corby, Northamptonshire, which uses river currents to generate electricity and charge batteries.

## Head recruits sniffer dog to tackle drugs

TWO BOYS of 15 have been suspended from school after their headmaster hired a sniffer dog trained to detect illegal drugs.

John Peckham, believes his Bramhall High School, in Stockport, Greater Manchester, is the first in the country to mount random drug searches. Parents and governors welcomed the scheme, although civil rights campaigners opposed it.

Mr Peckham said: "Just as the fear of being breath-tested deters many adults from drinking and driving, so the very remote possibility of being caught in school with an illegal drug will also act as a deterrent for many young people."

"We see this as part of a comprehensive programme to reduce the harm that drugs do - and the best way to avoid harm is not to become involved. Most of our students choose that route."

Mr Peckham said that he employed the labrador named Scuba and handler Steve Warren to protect the majority of the 1,450 comprehensive pupils who had never touched drugs. He hoped the sniffer dog's presence would deter the small number of pupils who dealt in cannabis on school grounds.

Mr Warren, who runs Sov-

BY CLARE GARNER

ereign Specialised Security in Macclesfield, checked the changing rooms, cloakrooms and public areas such as the school's perimeter fence.

The search, which cost £35, was part of a broader campaign against drugs at the school which included teachers smelling a massage oil made with cannabis to acquaint themselves with the smell.

Max Hunt, Stockport chief education officer, said using a sniffer dog might worry younger pupils.

A spokesman for the Greater Manchester branch of Liberty, the campaigning organisation for civil rights, said: "All the agencies agree that cannabis use and alcohol use should be treated with counselling and sympathetically."

"If pupils feel they are not getting this support because of the way the searches are done, that is sending out the wrong kind of messages."

But Mr Peckham has faith in his initiative and has warned pupils that Scuba could be back at any time.

The suspended boys were suspected of possessing cannabis, the headmaster said.

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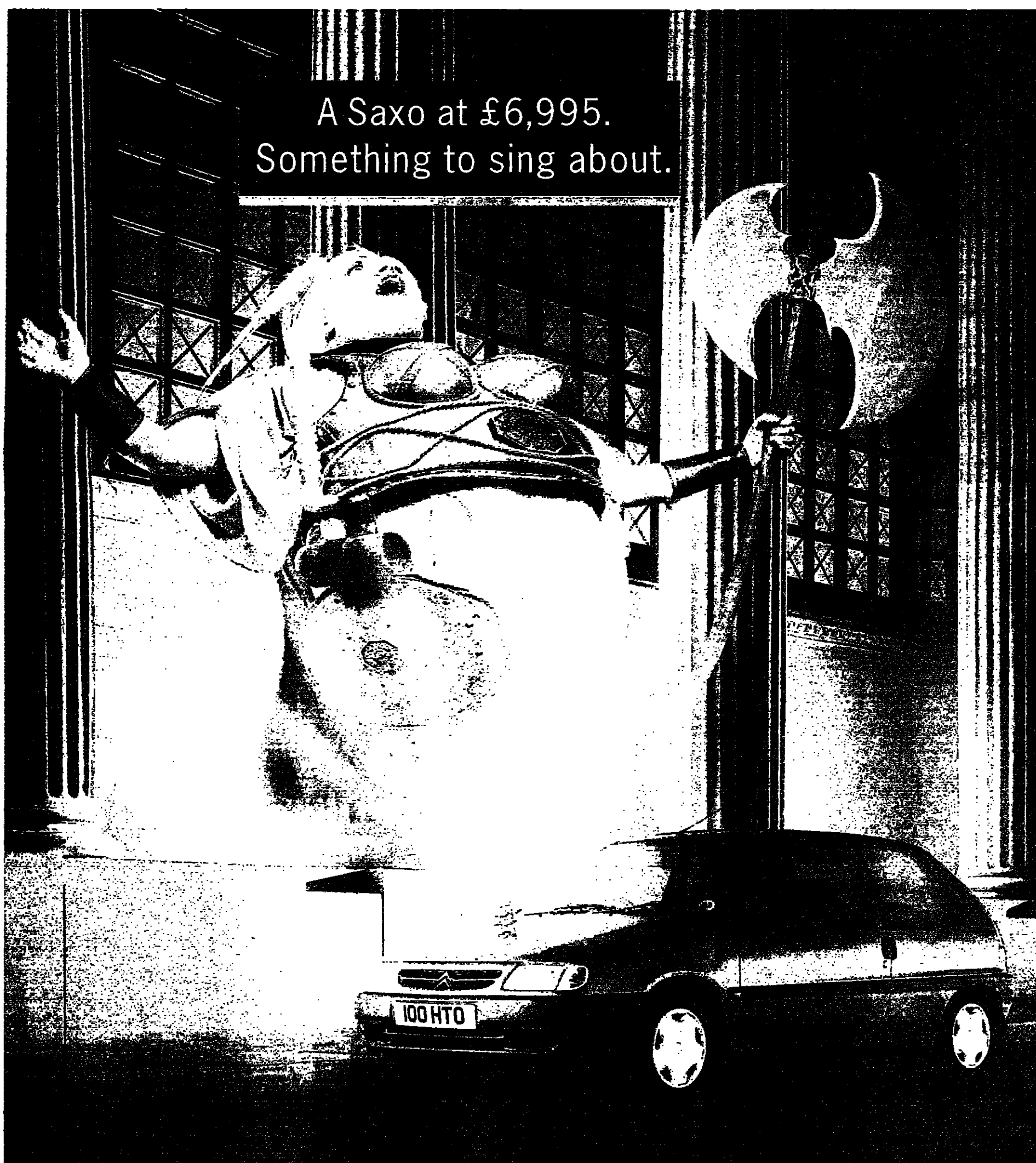
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# Marshal Tito's houseguest tells of crockery shortage

IT IS A broadly dependable rule of thumb that the more questions there are answered in a session of Oral Questions, the more boring that session has been.

Yesterday, in Questions to the Secretary of State for Social Security they got through a staggering 29 of them. Granted there were some absences; neither Graham Stringer (No 26) nor Sally Keeble (No 27) answered the speaker's call to put their tabled questions - though it is entirely possible they weren't absent at all, simply comatose after a session of such stupefying dispatch.

Taking into account responses

and supplementaries and general to-ing and fro-ing, the average length of speech must have been well under two minutes.

Not that longer lengths exactly guarantee thrills. During the Kosovo debate that followed, backbenchers were on a rhetorical leash - no speech was allowed to last for longer than 10 minutes, a duration which clearly strikes some MPs as hideously restrictive but which can often seem hopelessly indulgent to onlookers (and indeed, every MP not actually speaking at the time).

Robin Cook didn't get a great deal new said in his 40 minutes. He praised the armed forces, public

generosity and Clare Short. He implicitly compared Slobodan Milosevic to Stalin and Hitler and warned him that he was in the frame for war crimes charges.

He confirmed the new conditions for an end to hostilities and sketched in the diplomatic strategy for the rest of the war and the post-war settlement. But the Foreign Secretary did little to dispel the general fog that hovers over Nato's current attitude to engagement on the ground, or how exactly a recovered Kosovo would be made safe for returning refugees. In his mind's eye Mr Cook seems to have already moved on to rebuilding the infra-

## THE SKETCH



THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

structure, long before he has finished knocking it down. Let alone discovered whether the knocking down delivers the end he desires.

Michael Howard wasn't much more illuminating. Like almost everyone else in the chamber, the Tories now appear to be preparing for ground war - we no longer hear anything of the explicit opposition to ground troops once expressed by William Hague, only grave requests for "clarity" about Nato preparations for such an escalation.

Tam Dalyell has spotted this sudden vacancy in the Tory line and asked Mr Howard outright whether he was in favour of taking ground forces in. Mr Howard dodged the question with an agility that should give some comfort to Mr Cook. Then the Liberal Democrats' Menzies

Campbell repeated his party's line - a little bit of "We told you so", another argument for the inescapable need for ground troops and a brief detour to defend John Simpson, by suggesting that it was high time Alastair Campbell stopped firing unattributable arrows at a man with his hands tied behind his back.

Not much hadn't been said many times before. But Gwyneth Dunwoody did get MPs to pay attention with her arresting opening sentence of her contribution: "As a 30 year old," she said, "I went with my parents to stay with Marshal Tito".

While there, the young Gwyneth had apparently quizzed the Yugo-

slavian generals about the recent victory of their guerrilla forces over the better equipped Germans.

Faced with tanks, she learnt, the Yugoslav partisans had simply laid dinner plates on the road. The Germans, unable to believe they were being opposed by mere crockery, climbed out of their tanks to take a closer look, at which point they were shot by men carrying ancient muzzle-loaders.

Out of all the speeches, this alone could be said to have contributed some new intelligence to the war effort. Serbia's porcelain factories will presumably be bracing themselves for air raids.

## MPs demand full vote on air strikes

THE INTERNATIONAL community will have to accept "a more direct responsibility" in Kosovo than previously envisaged once Serb troops have been forced out, Robin Cook said yesterday.

The Foreign Secretary proposed during a full-day debate that the administration of Kosovo would have to be placed in the hands of international bodies like the United Nations and the European Union. But amid the toughening of Nato's military action, the Government faced mounting disquiet by backbenchers over its failure to seek Parliament's endorsement of the strikes with a vote.

Opening the debate, Mr Cook said the task of reconstruction, both of the shattered villages and of a democratic society within Kosovo, would take the combined efforts of an international protectorate.

"It would be our preference that a mandate should be provided by a UN Security Council resolution setting up an international administration for Kosovo. I believe it will not be possible to persuade the refugees to return to their homes without a credible military presence."

However, Foreign Office sources said the plans still needed to be discussed with the other Nato member states.

Mr Cook went on to warn that the continent was witnessing the "largest forced deportation in Europe since the time of Stalin or Hitler", under a planned assault by Belgrade.

He will today hand over a dossier of material "on multiple atrocities" and ethnic cleansing

### BALKAN WAR BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

from the past three weeks to the chief prosecutor of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

Tony Benn, Labour MP for Chesterfield and leading opponent of the air strikes, argued that the Government's failure to seek Parliament's endorsement reduced MPs to the position "of a sort of press conference where we listen to ministers but have no opportunity to register our views or votes".

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, asked if the proposal of international administration for Kosovo was the "settled policy" of the Government and if it had been agreed by all the allies and with the neighbouring states.

Mr Cook replied: "It is going to have to be a much more hands-on operation than we envisaged at Rambouillet in the wake of the last four weeks. Yes, that is the view of the Government. It is a view in which we had close discussion with our major allies and I believe it is one... which is widely shared among our allies."

Michael Howard, the shadow Foreign Secretary, pledged his party's continuing support for the action, adding that the Serbs' campaign of ethnic cleansing was the "most dire return to the dreadful reality of the Second World War".

But while he would be the "last person to minimise the impact of the Nato campaign" it was time to face the "deeply un-

palatable" fact that the bombing had not stopped the ethnic cleansing. It was time to reconsider how Nato could achieve its objectives, as it was clear from the "substantial reinforcements" now being made that the Alliance's original assessment had been "too optimistic".

Menzies Campbell, for the Liberal Democrats, said there were both "moral and pragmatic" reasons for stopping Serbia's "flagrant abuse of humanitarian standards".

"I believe that these objectives which we have set out can be attained but it will not be easy... the threat and indeed the use of ground forces will be an essential component in the achievement of any settlement," he said.

He added: "But if we are to ask our young men and increasingly our young women to risk their lives in the furtherance of political objectives, then surely they ought to know that they have had the endorsement of the House of Commons."

Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, said it was "extremely difficult" on occasions for MPs to express unease about the way the situation was developing without that being construed as undermining the efforts of Britain's forces or their support of government.

"I will certainly find it difficult to support the commitment of ground troops if they go in to fight their way into a province which, frankly, is not only geographically extremely difficult for this kind of war, but also against very committed and certainly very tough opponents."



Maureen Morrow, 80, celebrating her birthday yesterday at Stormont with Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and pupils from Killea, Co Londonderry, who run an Adopt-a-Granny scheme. Stephen Davison

## Boothroyd sends Fiona Jones case back to court

THE FATE of the former Labour MP Fiona Jones still hung in the balance last night after the Speaker of the House of Commons declared that her reinstatement was a matter for the courts and not Parliament.

Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, said that it was for the High Court to decide whether Mrs Jones could be restored as MP for Newark after her successful appeal against conviction for election expenses fraud.

Mrs Jones, who won the seat with a majority of 3,000 at the last election, was stripped of office when she was found guilty at Nottingham Crown Court of submitting misleading expenses claims.

However, the High Court quashed the conviction last week, claiming that the jury in the earlier case had been misdirected by the judge.

Both Mrs Jones and the Labour Party expected that

### NEWARK BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

she would be swiftly reinstated as an MP but the Speaker's office decided that it needed time to assess the judgment.

Yesterday, Mrs Boothroyd announced she had instructed the Attorney-General, John Morris, to apply to the High Court for a ruling on how the 1983 Representation of the People Act should be interpreted. She said that the case had given rise to an "unprecedented situation" where the Commons had declared a seat vacant on conviction of its MP but was subsequently faced with her effective acquittal by a more senior court.

On the one hand there was a need for natural justice to be done, she said, but on the other, whatever the outcome of an appeal, it was interpretation of



Fiona Jones: High Court will rule on reinstatement

the Act that was important. "It is for the courts and not for the House to interpret the law. I hope very much that it may be disposed of speedily," Mrs Boothroyd said.

"The court will be invited to make a declaration that following the decision of the Court

of Appeal to quash her conviction, Fiona Jones is entitled to resume her seat." The Speaker added that once this case had been resolved, the Act should be reviewed to prevent similar difficulties arising in future.

Given the small size of Mrs Jones's majority, the Government is anxious to avoid a by-election that could give the Tories a much-needed fillip.

Even though the Court of Appeal judges ruled last week that the conviction was quashed and "all consequences" that flowed from it should be quashed, a strict reading of the 1983 Act makes reinstatement difficult. The Speaker's office declared soon after the judgment that there was no provision for reinstatement in the Act. A Labour Party spokeswoman said: "We hope that, in the interests of natural justice, the outcome of this process will see Fiona Jones reinstated."

## THE HOUSE



### Welfare reform

LABOUR BACKBENCHERS spoke of their concern during questions over the increase of means-testing through the Government's Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill.

### Poll for peers

TORY AND crossbench peers will urge ministers today not to press ahead with plans for scrapping the rights of hereditaries unless the measure is backed in a referendum.

### Benefit cut

BRIAN IDDON, (Lab, Bolton South East), said Benefits Agency staff had not taken an agoraphobia sufferer seriously when they cut her benefits and then asked her to a back-to-work interview.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### Tax bungles

PROCESSING errors of self-assessed tax returns by the Inland Revenue have led to £2.8m being repaid to members of the public in 1998/99, Dawn Primarolo, the Paymaster-General, announced.

### IT protected

THE MINISTRY of Defence's Defence Evaluation and Research Agency has been commissioned by the Government to protect computers in Whitehall departments from the threat of electronic attack by hackers, Lord Williams, the Home Office minister, said.

### Better buses

SPECIAL FUNDS to boost rural transport in England have led to the creation of 550 bus services and improved 740 bus routes, the Transport Minister Dr John Reid said.

### Today's Agenda

2.30pm  
Foreign Office questions  
■ Finance Bill, second reading  
■ Short debate on advice and support for road accident victims, Lords  
2.30pm  
■ House of Lords Bill, committee  
■ Debate on call for moves to alleviate tension between India and Pakistan



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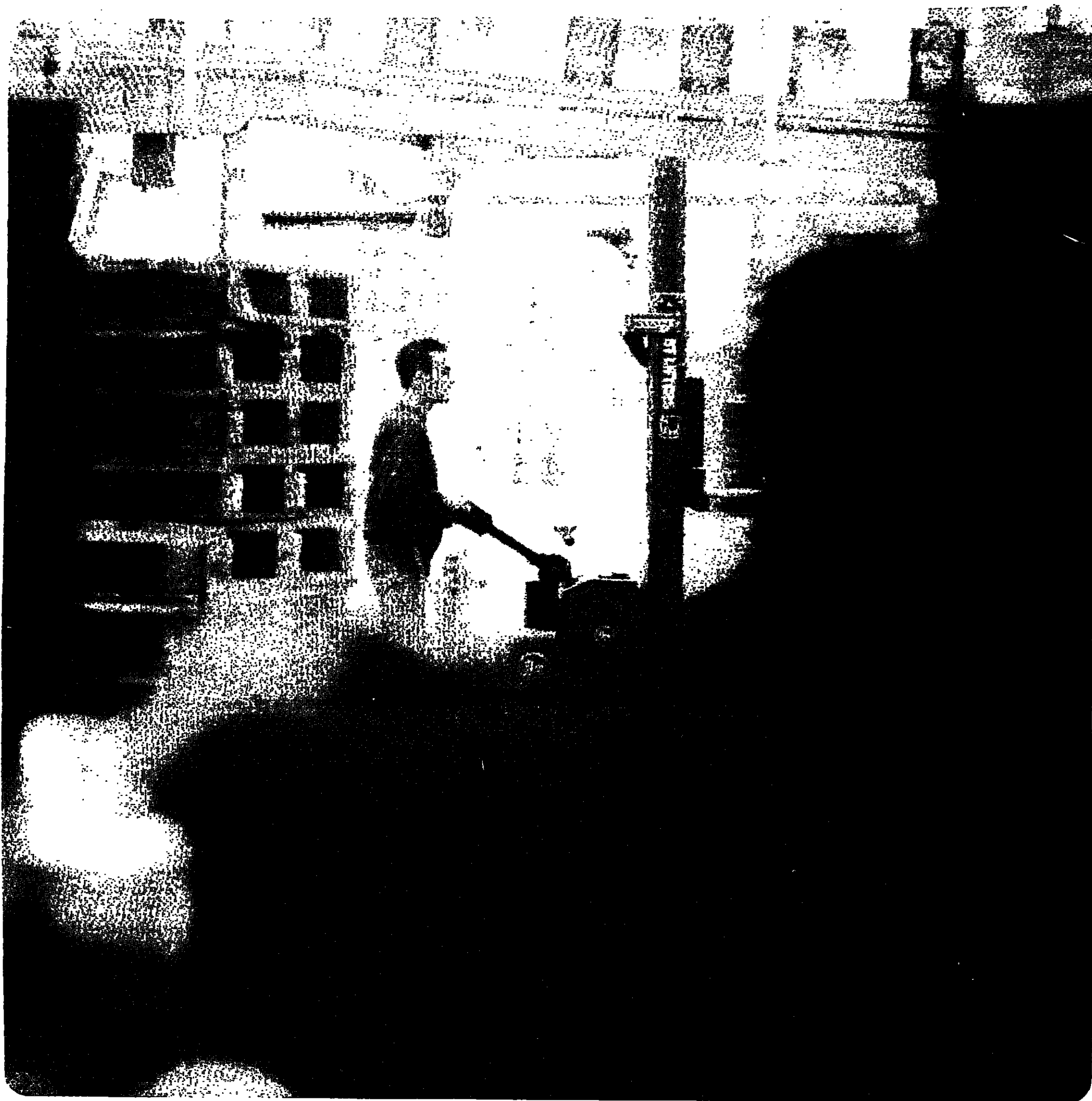
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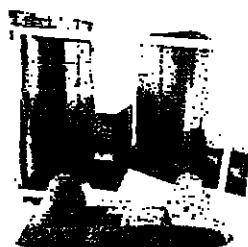


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## Body piercing craze 'threatens children'

BY CLARE GARNER

MINISTERS ARE being urged to introduce guidelines to prevent children having their bodies pierced without their parents' consent.

David Clark, Labour MP for South Shields, has tabled parliamentary questions calling for legislation after learning that a 13-year-old daughter of a constituent had been body pierced.

The insertion of studs, rings and chains through various parts of the body was once the preserve of punks. But these days body piercings are in high demand, particularly among 17- to 24-year-olds.

Mr Clark is concerned about the danger of infection. "What adults do to their own bodies is up to them. But there should be reasonable protection to ensure this does not happen to minors," he said.

Body piercing began centuries ago in the Orient, but the recent body-art phen-



Mel B of the Spice Girls and Zara Phillips (above). Elaine Davidson (right) has possibly gone too far

omenon has been called both "New Age tribalism" and "perversion chic".

The model Stella Tennant helped elevate piercings to their now fashionable status by appearing on catwalks with rings in her navel, chin, nose, ears and eyebrows.

Last week two debutantes appeared at the Berkeley Ball in London with pierced navels and lips, and Zara Phillips,

the daughter of Princess Anne, has had a metal stud put through her tongue.

Ms Phillips was not, however, the first royal to indulge in piercing. Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, is said to have inserted a ring through the end of his penis and attached a weighted chain to keep it still while out riding. The custom has been dubbed a "Prince Albert" ever since.



## Lawyer jailed for stealing legacies

A LAWYER with a string of illustrious clients, including Dodi Fayed and Princess Michael of Kent, was sentenced to three years in prison at the Old Bailey yesterday for plundering legacies to orphaned children and charities.

Michael Palmer, a former senior partner of a West End law firm with links to Britain's overseas security service, MI6, was involved in a £250,000 conspiracy to defraud and steal funds from two estates he controlled as an executor.

The first arose from the "tragic deaths" of Jane and David Elton, who left two young children in the care of two legal guardians, said Anthony Hacking QC, for the prosecution. Palmer, 61, was godfather to one of the children.

The second plundered estate, left by his friend Geoffrey Roberts, who died in 1994, made bequests to various Aids charities. They had yet to receive a penny, the court heard.

"These were no spur-of-the-moment frauds, but showed protracted dishonesty by sophisticated methods to disguise what was going on," said Mr Hacking.

"Palmer got himself into financial difficulties because of his lifestyle and because his firm was not doing very well commercially at the time. His debts fluctuated from £395,000 to £487,000 over the period."

Palmer had admitted 17 charges of conspiracy to defraud, theft, forgery and false accounting involving over £250,000 from 1992 to 1996.

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) decided last month not to proceed with other charges which Palmer had denied. Counsel for the prosecution denied yesterday that the charges had been reduced to suppress evidence relating to Palmer's alleged connection

BY ROBERT VERKAIK  
Legal Affairs Correspondent

with MI6. "Such speculation is untrue," Mr Hacking said. "We, as prosecution counsel against Palmer, did not deal with MI6 or anyone else. Our decision recognised taxpayers' interest in avoiding a three-month trial."

Palmer is understood to be linked to the security services through a former client, Jamshid Hashemi Naini, an MI6 go-between in the Middle East. It is believed that Palmer became involved in the world of espionage while advising Naini on his companies in Iran.

A spokesman for the SFO said: "Michael Palmer used and abused his position as a solicitor and betrayed those who placed their trust in him."



Michael Palmer: Showed 'protracted dishonesty'

Mr Justice Collins told Palmer: "It is always a tragedy to see someone like yourself in the dock admitting serious dishonesty. Solicitors are in a special position as far as the public is concerned - they expect to be able to trust them."

"The other side of the coin is that, when it comes to punishment, the court recognises that you have lost everything. You will never be able to practise as a solicitor again."

## Complaints about solicitors hit record high

COMPLAINTS AGAINST solicitors have reached an all-time high, according to a new report.

But 80 per cent of all new complaints were generated by a 20 per cent "hard core" of problem solicitors.

The figures, revealed in the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS) annual report today, show that last year 31,672 complaints were made against the profession, compared with 23,453 in 1996. One solicitor was investigated for marrying a client's former wife, while another charged £1,500 for attending a funeral.

The report will confirm that the backlog in outstanding complaints stands at 9,000. The OSS admits that figures for this year indicate that the situation is not expected to improve.

A survey of 300 complainants included in the report reveals serious misgivings about the standard of service provided by the OSS. Major areas of concern centre on delay, and communication between the OSS and complainants.

BY ROBERT VERKAIK

Geoff Hoon, minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, warned the profession last week that if it did not put its house in order the Government would be forced to remove its self-regulatory status.

Peter Ross, the barrister recruited by the Law Society in 1996 to head the OSS will not, it is understood, be considering his own position as director. Instead, the OSS is expected to argue that the Law Society has failed to provide it with sufficient resources to do the job.

While complaints have jumped by more than 3,000 in three years, the number of staff employed to investigate complaints has remained almost static. The backlog of complaints worsened last year when the OSS offices at Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, were flooded.

However, the Law Society's president, Michael Mathews, said that of 15 million legal transactions each year, only 1,000 lead to complaints.

## TERENCE BLACKER

One boy confessed that, whatever his subject, his story became all gory

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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# Israelis demolish Palestinians' homes

By PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

THE BULLDOZER took just a few minutes yesterday to turn the house of Maher Izzat Hassan, a Palestinian taxi-driver living on the outskirts of Jerusalem, into a heap of concrete rubble. He said: "I did not know the Israelis were going to demolish it until they came this morning."

On the other side of the narrow valley of Isawiya, just below the Hebrew University, another bulldozer, closely guarded by Israeli soldiers, was tearing apart the house of Abdul Razaq as-Sheikh, a 35-year-old building worker. By the time it had finished, the only things left standing were three small green plants he had recently planted outside the door of his home.

As news of the house demolitions in Isawiya spread among the 155,000 Palestinians who live in Jerusalem, many said that they feared their own homes would be next. Israeli authorities routinely deny Palestinians building permits, so whole neighbourhoods have been built illegally. Demolition orders have already been served on 850 houses.

These are the final weeks of the Israeli election campaign and Palestinians are frightened that they are seeing the start of a wave of demolitions designed to show Israeli voters that Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, is strengthening Israel's grip on Jerusalem.

"It is all to do with the elections," said Ziyad Abu Humus, whose own house is under threat of destruction. "Maybe the bulldozers will come for my house soon."

Danny Seidmann, an Israeli human rights lawyer, agrees. After watching the destruction of the houses in Isawiya, he said: "The timing of this is not accidental. Another five demolitions are planned for tomorrow. Netanyahu is basing his campaign on the defence of Jerusalem, so these poor un-



Palestinians yesterday watching the demolition of their homes in Jerusalem AP

fortunate people lose the roof over their heads." Mr Seidmann added that tensions were already high among Palestinians and a single spark could cause an explosion.

For the moment, people in Isawiya, most of whose houses are under threat, look apprehensive rather than politically

militant. "They don't give permission for people to build so we don't know what to do," lamented Latifa Dorbas, as she tried to salvage the furniture of one house.

Pressure on Palestinians in Jerusalem has intensified over the past five years. Since 1993, when the Oslo accords were

signed, those living on the West Bank - often within sight of the city - have not been able to enter it without a permit. The value of a Jerusalem identity card has thus been increased, but the Israeli Interior Ministry began a campaign to withdraw these three years ago and has so far confiscated 2,179,

according to the Israeli human rights group B'tselem. This has had the effect of forcing more Palestinians to come back into Jerusalem because they fear losing their residency rights.

Why these rights matter is explained by the case of Fayed Zeitawi, a Palestinian from Jerusalem who was knifed earlier in the year, apparently by a Jewish serial stabber. His hospital fees were about £11,200. But his right to reside in Jerusalem was withdrawn in 1998 and with it his right to health insurance. He will have to pay his medical expenses himself.

The daily Haaretz newspaper notes that "as a Palestinian (Mr Zeitawi) cannot be recognised as the victim of terrorist activity".

In addition to trying to reduce the number of Palestinians in the West Bank, the government is rapidly increasing the number of Jewish settlements and settlers in the area. United States satellite photographs reveal that Mr Netanyahu has built 12 new settlements on hilltops since the Wye Plantation accords with the Palestinians - now frozen - were brokered by the US President, Bill Clinton, last October. Another six settlements were built immediately before the Wye meeting.

Madeline Albright, the US Secretary of State, told Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, that the new settlements break an explicit Israeli promise to the US not to build new settlements or expand existing ones. In the past three years the number of settlers on the West Bank has risen from 150,000 to 180,000. Housing starts in the settlements last year were up 105 per cent, compared with only 20 per cent in Israel.

New access roads are designed to carve up the territory, isolating Palestinians and making it more and more difficult on the ground for Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, ever to establish a Palestinian state.

## Timor militiamen 'drank blood after massacre'

By DIARMID O'SULLIVAN  
in Dili

FEARS ARE growing in East Timor that local militias allied to Indonesia are planning to crush the independence movement by violence. The militiamen, who butchered at least 12 people in Dili at the weekend, are now massing their forces across the Indonesian-occupied territory.

Several thousand militiamen mustered yesterday in the hill town of Aileo, south of Dili, where 20 of them drank blood mixed with wine. "In East Timorese tradition, this shows that we are in a serious situation and we are ready to face it," said Basilio Araujo, their spokesman. Mr Araujo claims the militias are only defending themselves from the independence movement's guerrillas. But he has said on Australian television: "We will kill as many people as we want."

Supporters of independence have launched some pinprick attacks, but the militias have been far more brutal. The armed wing of the independence movement, Falintil, has a few hundred guerrillas in the



Anti-independence militiamen in Aileo yesterday AP

hills but they are under orders not to go into Dili.

The parade in Aileo ended without violence, though after a similar parade in Dili on Saturday a thousand armed militiamen raided the house of a local independence leader, Manuel Carrascalao. At least 12 of the 126 refugees in the house were shot or hacked to death. The fate of the rest is unclear.

Militiamen admit that leaders of the National Council of

Timorese Resistance (CNRT), the main pro-independence group, are on their hit-list. Mr Carrascalao and another CNRT leader, Leandro Isaac, are now sheltering with the police. Unlike the army, the police have made some effort to save lives.

A well-placed source fears the next target may be the town of Baucau, east of Dili. The CNRT leader there, Marito Reis, has refused to leave his

house, saying he does not want to abandon his followers.

The East Timorese are supposed to choose between autonomy and secession in a July referendum backed by the United Nations. Indonesia has drawn up a plan for autonomy, and if the leaders of the independence movement are dead or exiled, people may not dare to vote for secession.

The real power in East Timor is not the Jakarta government but a shadowy group of army officers and intelligence operatives. A key figure in this group was a notorious former general, Prabowo Subianto, who has been in exile since losing a power struggle with the army leadership last summer. The Timorese fighters he trained and armed are now the core of the militias.

A bomb ripped through the basement of the Istiqal Mosque in Jakarta, South-east Asia's largest mosque, yesterday, causing serious damage and injuring three people. Indonesia's president, BJ Habibie, condemned the attack as an attempt to worsen the religious violence plaguing the country.

## Gandhi stakes claim to India

By IAN MACKINNON  
in New Delhi

THE SHAPE of India's new government, led by Sonia Gandhi's Congress party, will become clear by this evening, according to one of the key powerbrokers in the political wrangling.

The former actress-turned-politician Jayaram Jayalalitha revealed that progress had been made in the search for a replacement administration after the fall of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition. But while Mrs Gandhi, widow of the former prime minister Rajiv, conceded that Congress would stake a claim to govern, she refused to disclose details.

If Mrs Gandhi succeeds in winning the support of as many as 26 parties from the regions and the left, she will form India's sixth government in little more than three years. But there were signs yesterday that Congress, with only 139 MPs, well short of the 271 needed for a majority in parliament, was struggling to win over several crucial small parties to make the numbers tally.

Key among them were two left-wing parties, the Revolutionary Socialists and Forward Block, who object to the previous Congress government's economic reform policies, and the regional Tamil Maanila Congress, which refuses to be part of any coalition containing its arch-rival Ms Jayalalitha. Together they command a vital eight votes which would make a Congress coalition viable.

A day of deal-making in Delhi saw frantic efforts to persuade the parties to come on board.

But Ms Jayalalitha was adamant that there was no pressure on her All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party to remain outside the government in order to win over the waverers.

## Turkish far right on the rise

By JUSTIN HUGGLER  
in Istanbul

THEIR FISTS thrust in the air, the cheering crowds made the sign of the wolf - the symbol of hardline Turkish nationalism. They were celebrating the astonishing electoral success of Turkey's far-right nationalists.

With 69 per cent of votes counted from Sunday's polls, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), with 18.6 per cent of votes counted, was second only to the Democratic Left Party of the Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit. With 21.7 per cent of the vote, Mr Ecevit was widely expected to emerge on top.

"This election is a crossroads for the Turkish nation and democracy," said the MHP's leader, Devlet Bahceli. In Turkey's last elections, his party failed even to win the 10 per cent of the national vote needed to qualify for parliament.

The far right gains will transform Turkey's political arena. Political Islam, which has dominated the agenda in recent years, was delivered a crushing defeat. The Islamist Virtue Party, seen as Mr Ecevit's only

challenger in the run-up to the polls, saw its share of the vote plummet as it limped in in third place. "The period of using religion for political purposes is over," said Mr Ecevit.

Mr Ecevit is expected to remain in power at the head of a government including the MHP. Ardent nationalism is de rigueur in mainstream Turkish politics, and Mr Ecevit is no exception. With the MHP's backing, his policies are likely to be more chauvinist than ever.

"The MHP will move Turkey towards a more nationalist line in relations with the European

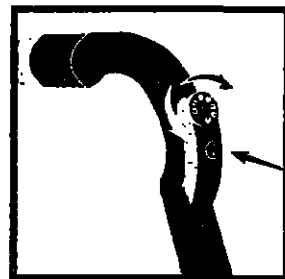
Union, the United States and Russia," said Professor Ali Carkoglu of the political faculty at Istanbul's Bogazici University. "That may signal trouble."

The far right's success is ominous for Turkey's restive Kurdish minority. The party is fiercely opposed to any compromise with autonomy-seeking Kurdish factions. There was consolation for Kurds as a Kurdish nationalist party won several mayors' posts in the south-east. But the People's Democracy Party (Hadepe) failed to secure the expected gains in its national vote.

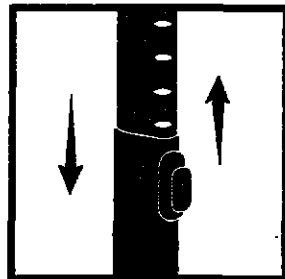
# THINKING OF BUYING AN UPRIGHT ?

# THINK AGAIN!

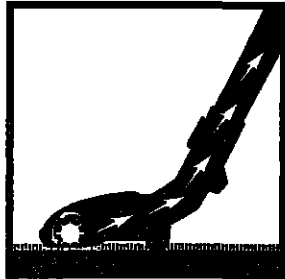
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# They gave a residents' working party – but nobody came

"RESPECTED Muscovites! You are invited to help clean up your local backyards. Please come to Grep on Saturday morning and we will find a job for you."

"You're not thinking of volunteering for that, are you?" asked my neighbour Tanya, lazily. She was sunning herself on the pavement at Samotechny Lane, sitting not in a deck chair but in an old car seat from the wreck her son, Lyosha, the tearaway, was cannibalising.

"Well," I said, "I thought I might. After all, it's not like the old sabbatnik, it's just to improve the environment, isn't it?"

In Communist times, Russians were made to celebrate Lenin's birthday by doing unpaid overtime on the nearest Saturday to 22 April – hence sabbatnik, from the word for Saturday. Usually, they washed windows or did other spring cleaning at their factories and offices. The work was supposed to be voluntary but they refused to join the collective effort. The sign on the wall at Samotechny Lane was a polite invitation. There was no sense of coercion any more. After winter, the yards were filthy. And I was curious, so I decided

to join the cleaning campaign.

On Saturday morning, there was a dead hush in the yard, as on a public holiday. I looked out of the window but could see nobody at all. Undeterred, I went to Grep, the council office responsible for repairs and maintenance in those flats still owned by the state and for the upkeep of communal facilities such as roofs, lifts and staircases.

The door was flung open by a man in goggles, with an overpowering smell of vodka on his breath. I had encountered this flying ace before. I had woken up a few months

earlier to see his face at my third-floor window. He was riding in the basket of a crane. Our balconies had been disintegrating, dropping brick fragments on to passers-by below. For some reason, I thought he was going to fix my balcony. But what he actually did was to bash the bricks with a metal pole so that all the loose ones fell down. Then he rode away, leaving me with a balcony full of holes on to which I would be mad to step out.

## STREET LIFE

SAMOTECHNY LANE, MOSCOW

Now here was this Biggles for you! He shouted and lumbered off down the Grep corridor. The manager, Galina Mikhailovna, invited me into her control room. "There's no one else here yet," she said, "so we might as well put the kettle on."

Over tea, she told me about her work. Like a Star Wars commander, she sat at a huge panel of buttons, knobs and flashing lights. "People call in,

complaining that their toilets are blocked or the light bulbs need changing in the stairwell. We send out plumbers and joiners and electricians."

Jobs that in the West are mostly done on a private basis are carried out here by the council workmen. Galina Mikhailovna admitted that while Russians are often house-proud inside their flats, they take little care of the areas that belong to everybody and therefore to nobody. We had another cup of tea.

Galina Mikhailovna answered an emergency call from someone stuck in a lift. I was still the

only volunteer for the yard clean-up. Biggles, really an Azeri called Vagit, and a couple of other handymen, being Grep employees, were obliged to be present, but they had arrived with hangers and were already resorting to the hair of the dog.

"You could go out in the yard on your own and pick up a few twigs," said Galina Mikhailovna. I looked out of the window at the pot-holed yard, needing proper asphalt, turf and saplings to renew it in any meaningful way, and was overcome with a sense of futility. Instead, I went home and swept

up the cigarette butts that had been dropped in the immediate area outside my own front door.

Then, because I could no longer sit on my balcony, I took a book out into the nearby Children's Park. It was about Africa – cruelly, absurdly, beat and dust – but it only made me think of Russia – cruelly, absurdly, cold and mud.

Tanya strolled past me and gave me a wink. An old man sat on a bench, playing an accordion. Life is short and Russia is eternal. Just enjoy it while the summer lasts.

HILLEN WOMACK

# Reichstag is opened for one day only

GERMANY'S HISTORIC parliament building woke yesterday from more than half a century of slumber, its new glass dome glimmering in the sunshine as the chamber filled with the reassuring sound of heckling.

The Reichstag was reopened for one symbolic day, to show the world that Germans were ready to reclaim their past – wars and all – and become a normal nation again. It began with brass bands, beaming politicians and light-hearted ceremonies, but inevitably reached its climax with sombre assurances that lessons had been learnt.

"Our democracy and parliament are strong and stable," said Chancellor Gerhard Schröder. "The move to Berlin is not a break in the continuity of post-war German history."

Any fear that Mr Schröder's generation and the "Berlin Republic" he was inaugurating would suffer from amnesia was quickly dispelled by his contrite address. "The move to Berlin is a return to German history, to the place of two German dictatorships which brought great suffering to the people of Germany and Europe," the Chancellor said.

It made no sense, he added, to equate the Reichstag with the Reich. While he was an advocate of retaining the Reichstag's name – some Social Democrats had tried to abolish this last reference to the Reich – Mr Schröder saw no danger of backsliding on principles.

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Berlin

"The success of the Bonn democracy, the politics of understanding and good neighbourliness, a firm anchorage in Europe and the Atlantic Alliance, as well as the aura of life in freedom, have all helped make possible the Berlin Republic in a unified Germany," he declared.

But it was hard to ignore the irony of the moment. The Berlin Republic, the new improved Germany with self-confidence thrown in, was being launched just as the Luftwaffe was completing another sortie over the Balkans. The Bonn Republic had survived for nearly 50 years without firing a bullet in anger.

To Germans aware of their history, this has caused great anguish. Mr Schröder defended his government's actions by alluding to the "historical responsibilities of a country that had spread genocide and aggression to our continent".

He did not say in what ways the Berlin Republic would differ from its predecessor. The key difference, though, will probably be poverty. The politicians had not been confronted by much of that in the old miniature capital, but in Berlin, as the Chancellor noted, one out of every six adults is on the dole.

Indeed, as MPs discussed the progress of reunification under the halo created by the dome, anarchist demonstra-

tors were clashing outside with mounted police, unemployed building workers were chanting "The Reichstag stands and we are on the dole", and nurses picketed in protest against imminent hospital closures.

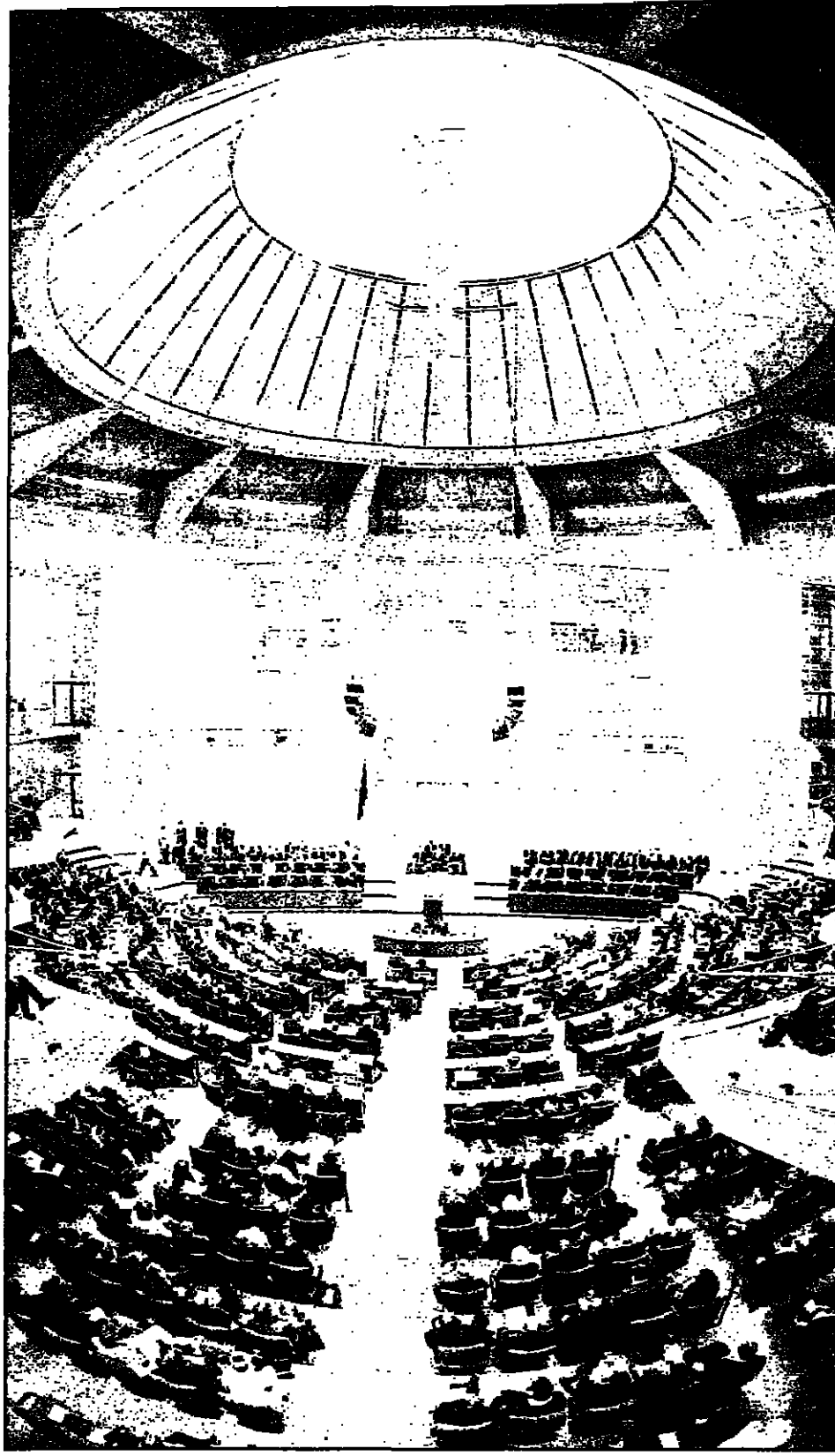
The fact is that the capital of the new republic is broke. The Reichstag cost DM600m of federal money and was built, as the German workers outside never stopped lamenting, mostly by cheaper foreign workers.

The architect was also a foreigner. Sir Norman Foster was in attendance, handing over the key to the building and receiving several rounds of generous applause from MPs for his good work.

As the politicians wrapped up the proceedings, another symbolic event was unfolding a few blocks away. President Roman Herzog and Ignatz Bubis were opening up the new five-storey headquarters of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, to replace their much humbler abode in Bonn. Now only the government is missing from this capital.

For the next few months, MPs will go back to Bonn to pack their bags and prepare for the shift to Berlin. Some politicians will gather in the Reichstag next month to elect the country's president, and then almost everyone will be on the move to their new home.

On 6 September the Reichstag reopens in earnest, and perhaps it will stay open a little longer than the last time.



The inaugural session of the Reichstag chamber yesterday



Adolf Hitler making a speech in the Reichstag

## Foundations of German history

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Berlin

1871 – Wilhelm I of Prussia is declared Kaiser of the German Empire. The Reichstag, meaning "Imperial Assembly", is convened under the restrictive constitution drafted by Chancellor Otto von Bismarck.

1884 – Construction of new Reichstag building begins, under the architect Paul Wallot.

5 December 1894 – Kaiser Wilhelm II opens the new Reichstag, describing the architecture as "the summit of tastelessness", and the building as the "Reich's Monkey House". Members have little influence on the government.

9 November 1918 – Germany lies defeated, Wilhelm II takes flight, and from a window of the Reichstag the Social Democrat politician Philipp Scheidemann proclaims the republic. A mile away, the Communist leader Karl Liebknecht declares a Bolshevik-style republic.

31 July 1919 – Fleeing the turmoil of Berlin, liberal politicians adopt a new constitution at a theatre in Weimar. Parliament returns to the Reichstag in the spring of 1920.

30 January 1933 – Adolf Hitler becomes Chancellor. He never speaks at the Reichstag.

27-28 February 1933 – The Reichstag is set on fire, allegedly by Communists.

23 March 1933 – Hitler rushes through a law, making him dictator of the new Third Reich.

1933-1945 – The burnt-out Reichstag is restored, but is used as a tourist office for the 1936 Olympics and later as a maternity ward. Suffers severe bomb damage during the war.

30 April 1945 – Soviet soldiers hoist the Red Flag over the Reichstag.

1972 – First attempt to renovate the Reichstag, stranded on the eastern side of the Berlin Wall.

9 November 1989 – East Germany opens the Berlin Wall.

3 October 1990 – Reunited Germany is proclaimed on the steps of the Reichstag.

20 June 1991 – The Bundestag in Bonn votes to move the government to Berlin.

1992 – Sir Norman Foster wins the Reichstag renovation contract.

June-July 1995 – Christo wraps the Reichstag in silver.

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June-July 1995 – Christo wraps the Reichstag in silver.

## Feminists protest at French knicker show

ONE MALE shopper said: "It reminds me of the red light district in Amsterdam", as he glanced at the window display at Galeries Lafayette. The Paris department store is using real mannequins to model a range of lingerie by the designer Chantal Thomass.

Since 13 April three models have been on show in windows designed to look like rooms. The models, scantily clad in a variety of bras, frilly knickers, suspenders and silky gowns, sip champagne in the conservatory, file their nails in the bathroom, and prepare snacks in the kitchen.

Many passers-by appreciate the displays. Others believe the shows insult women

BY CLAIRE SOARES  
in Paris

and give the wrong image of Paris. On Saturday 50 feminists outside the store chanted "Women in windows, no, no, no." A petition to remove the models has been signed by 150, including two female National Assembly deputies, saying the shows were degrading.

A spokesman for Chantal Thomass said: "Our models are beautiful, not vulgar and degrading. Their eyes never catch those of any shopper."

There was no sign of the girls yesterday. A store spokeswoman said Monday was their day off, but could not say if they would return today.

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### Legal Notices

No. 002364 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF TEMPLE BAR INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 1st April 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 28th day of April 1999.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the cancellation of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 15th day of April 1999

Garratt, Arncliffe House, Abney Street, Reading RG1 3BD

Solicitors to the Company

The Insolvency Act 1986

P.K. GLAZING LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 10.00 am on 19th May 1999 at 4, Chancery Square, London EC4M 3JF at 12.00 noon on the 19th day of May 1999.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Company is a limited liability company and is registered in England No. 01414141.

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### Legal Notices

No. 002285 of 1999

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF SEBIDEN STEEL LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th March 1999 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the share premium account of the above-named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Registrar of the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 28th day of April 1999.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the cancellation of the share premium account should appear at the time of the hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 20th day of April 1999

Cobbeys of Ship Canal House, King Street, Manchester M2 4WB

Solicitors to the Company

The Insolvency Act 1986

P.K. GLAZING LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at 10.00 am on 19th May 1999 at 4, Chancery Square, London EC4M 3JF at 12.00 noon on the 19th day of May 1999.

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

# BUSINESS

## 'Meagre terms' fuel hopes of rival Asda bid

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor



Sir Geoff Mulcahy (left) of Kingfisher and Allan Leighton of Asda in London yesterday

Neville Elder

### BRIEFING

#### Brazil in \$1bn bond sale

BRAZIL WILL this week tap the international capital markets for the first time in a year, selling at least \$1bn of five-year bonds. The bond sale, expected on Thursday, is the latest sign that investors are beginning to return to emerging markets following the crisis sparked last summer by the Russian debt default. A rebound in the Brazilian currency, an oil price rally and a \$41.5bn international rescue package have all helped restore confidence in the Brazilian economy, analysts said. If Thursday goes well it could pave the way for the sale of up to \$5bn of Brazilian bonds this year.

#### Rudd makes £3.2m from options



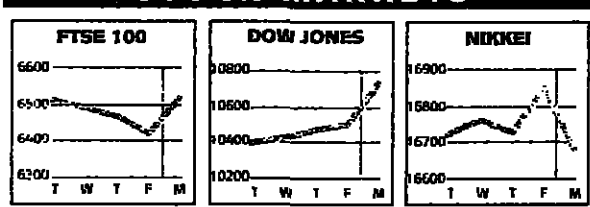
SIR NIGEL RUDD (pictured), chairman of Williams, the industrial group, made £3.2m last year after exercising options. The options were awarded 10 years ago and had to be cashed before the end of last year or they would have expired. The company said yesterday that most of the proceeds had been reinvested in Williams shares.

Roger Carr, the chief executive made £1.5m from cashing in options. Sir Nigel's salary, including benefits and awards, has come down from £792,000 in 1997 to £785,000 last year. This year he will receive £844,000. Mr Carr's salary rose last year to £828,000 from £685,000 the year before.

#### Trinity set for no-strike deal

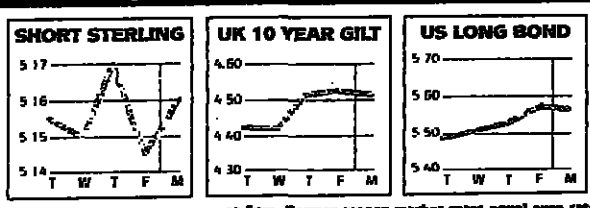
TRINITY, Britain's largest regional newspaper group, is expected this week to sign a no-strike deal with the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union for its Western Mail and Echo subsidiary in Cardiff. Journalists on the titles are resisting the proposed agreement, but management says there is a majority in favour among representatives of other employees. The agreement pre-empted legislation on union recognition and could set a precedent for other companies in the newspaper industry.

### STOCK MARKETS



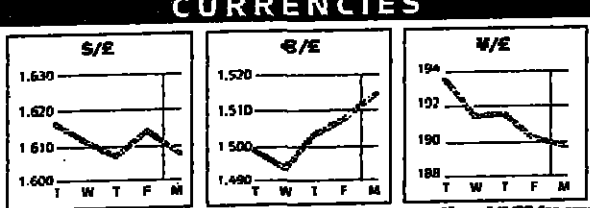
Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6515.30	94.70	1.48	6539.90	4599.20	2.41
FTSE 250	5849.40	53.20	0.92	5970.90	4247.60	3.01
FTSE 350	3110.80	42.50	1.39	3103.00	2210.40	2.50
FTSE All Share	3010.25	40.55	1.37	3000.33	2143.53	2.58
FTSE SmallCap	2489.60	22.50	0.91	2793.80	1834.40	3.28
FTSE Real Estate	1354.10	16.80	1.25	1412.80	988.21	1.52
FTSE AIM	816.10	13.40	1.68	1146.90	761.30	1.32
FTSE Europe 100	3024.08	46.74	1.57	3079.27	2018.15	1.93
FTSE Europe 300	1307.40	18.26	1.42	1332.07	860.63	1.81
Dow Jones	10734.85	243.76	2.32	10526.54	7400.30	1.47
Nikkei	16674.21	177.37	1.07	17166.06	12787.90	0.76
Hong Kong	12766.44	276.14	2.21	12490.30	9544.79	2.74
Dax	5220.15	64.80	1.25	5212.83	3893.21	1.57
S&P 500	1333.24	14.39	1.09	1362.38	933.32	1.20
Nasdaq	2464.50	18.69	0.75	2630.52	1357.09	0.29
Toronto 300	7020.30	8.37	0.12	7837.70	5320.90	1.49
Brazil Bovespa	11726.25	300.84	2.63	12202.27	4575.69	3.02
Belgium Bel20	3301.57	16.98	0.52	3713.21	2696.26	2.00
Amsterdam AEX	559.39	10.95	2.00	600.65	386.58	1.79
France CAC 40	4370.10	78.40	1.82	4416.00	2881.21	1.65
Germany DAX	36763.00	209.00	0.57	39170.00	26175.00	1.05
Madrid IBEX 35	9551.70	74.40	0.78	10999.80	6869.90	1.82
Italy ISEQ	5318.97	10.11	0.19	5581.70	3732.57	1.55
S Korea Comp	756.59	41.45	5.72	740.28	277.37	0.91
Australia ASX	3113.10	13.30	0.43	3104.40	2386.70	2.98

### INTEREST RATES



Index	5 years	10 years	15 years	20 years	30 years	Yr Chg
UK	5.32	5.35	5.35	5.35	5.35	-1.17
US	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.36
Japan	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	-0.06
Germany	2.62	2.62	2.62	2.62	2.62	-0.59

### CURRENCIES



Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr Chg
Dollar	1.6080	-0.35c	-0.67%	1.6219	1.4330	0.58%
Euro	1.5148	+0.88c	1.40%	1.5148	1.3725	0.85%
Yen	189.74	+0.10	0.05%	189.74	189.74	0.00%
E index	103.90	+0.40	0.39%	103.90	103.90	0.00%

### OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Change	% Chg	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yr Chg
Brent Oil (\$)	15.60	0.06	0.38%	15.60	12.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	283.95	-0.30	-0.11%	283.95	260.33	Mar
Silver (\$)	5.07	0.05	0.98%	5.07	4.60	Mar
Base Rates	5.25	7.25				

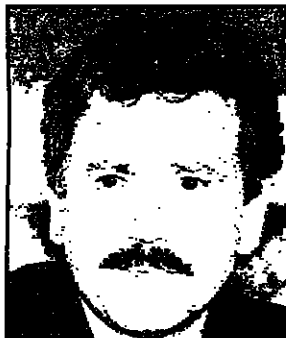
### TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.3986	Mexican (nuevo peso)	13.97
Austria (schillings)	20.22	Netherlands (guilder)	3.2402
Belgium (francs)	59.44	New Zealand (\$)	2.8240
Canada (\$)	2.3277	Norway (kroner)	12.23
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8484	Portugal (escudos)	203.58
Denmark (kroner)	11.00	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8759
Finland (markka)	8.7739	Singapore (\$)	2.5971
France (francs)	9.6021	South Africa (rand)	9.4472
Germany (marks)	2.8749	Spain (pesetas)	243.13
Greece (drachma)	479.46	Sweden (kronor)	13.17
Hong Kong (\$)	12.12	Switzerland (francs)	2.3654
Ireland (pounds)	1.1572	Thailand (bahts)	54.30
India (rupees)	62.13	Turkey (liras)	602.981
Israel (shekels)	6.0059	USA (\$)	1.5769
Italy (lira)	2863		
Japan (yen)	186.97		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8236		
Malta (lira)	0.6241		

KINGFISHER AND Asda yesterday unveiled further details of their planned £18bn merger though the City still focused on the meagre terms for Asda shareholders and speculated that a rival bid may yet emerge. Although Asda shares fell 5p to 193.75p this is still above the 180p price implied by the Kingfisher merger terms, indicating a higher bid. Kingfisher's shares closed 44p lower at 796p. One of Asda's institutional investors said: "We do not regard the terms as lavish but then this is a merger not a contested bid." Wal-Mart of the US or Carrefour of France are seen as the most likely counter-bidders. However, both Asda and Kingfisher deny their merger is a defensive move to block Wal-Mart's entry into the UK market. In a delayed stock market announcement that forced the abandonment of the planned press conference yesterday, Asda and Kingfisher said the merger would yield £100m of cost savings of which half would come in the first year. The deal would create a new retailing force with combined sales of £17bn, the two companies said. Sir Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive who will also run the merged group, said: "This is another important step on the road to being a global winner. There is an excellent strategic fit between the two companies, which reinforces our market leading positions and financial strength." About half the expected cost savings will come from securing better terms with suppliers, with further savings in distribution and administrative expenses. The group would move to a global procurement strategy, modelling itself on the Wal-Mart set-up. The benefits would be greatest in the £4.5bn of sales where Asda and Kingfisher overlap, such as in confectionery and children's clothing. The statement confirmed that Asda's George label of clothing would be sold through Woolworths outlets. Asda's non-food ranges would be strengthened by products from its Woolworths, Superdrug and Comet chains. The group would exploit new opportunities in digital technology such as Internet shopping and digital television channels. The statement made much of the enlarged group's financial muscle with net assets of £5bn, operating cashflow of £1.2bn and low gearing. It said this strength would enable it to play a full part in the consolidation of Europe's DIY and electrical markets, where Kingfisher has already expanded with the Darty electricals acquisition and the merger of its B&Q chain with Castorama of France. The deal would enable

the group to seize growth opportunities in markets such as Poland, Taiwan, Brazil and Singapore "where DIY or electrical operations are under development," the statement said. One analyst said, "It is supposed to be a merger but everything you read about it makes it look like a takeover. It is all about Kingfisher. There is very little here about taking Asda abroad." Asda released a trading statement yesterday showing that its like-for-like sales, stripping out new store openings, has risen by 4.7 per cent in the second half to 10 April. This was well ahead of the industry average and even better than Tesco's 4 per cent underlying sales growth announced last week. The merger will be scrutinised by the European competition authorities in Brussels because of its size. Under the terms of the deal Kingfisher shareholders will control two-thirds of the equity, with Asda shareholders holding the remainder. The terms are 0.2683 shares in Kingfisher for every Asda share held.

DEUTSCHE TELEKOM and Telecom Italia are expected to join forces to announce details of the world's biggest ever merger in London this morning. The exact terms of the \$200bn merger were still being hammered out by the boards of the two giant telecommunications businesses yesterday evening, but sources said plans were being made for a joint news conference in London today. Meanwhile, Roberto Colaninno, chief executive of the Italian industrial group Olivetti, which has tabled a rival \$65bn bid for Telecom Italia, insisted the company would go ahead with its offer, which is due to be formally tabled by the end of the month. The Italian Prime Minister, Massimo D'Alema, made it clear on Monday that the government would only be happy with an alliance between Telecom Italia and Deutsche Telekom based on an equal partnership. However, the German business daily Handelsblatt suggested in a report on Monday that a planned share swap to create the new merged company could mean 60 per cent of shares going to Deutsche Telekom shareholders and 40 percent to Telecom Italia's. A source also told Reuters a 60:40 ratio could be on the table. "We look with interest on the idea of a new European company. At the same time, we have to understand on which basis



D'Alema: 'The agreement has to be of equals'

This agreement will be reached... The agreement has to be of equals," Mr D'Alema told reporters. Italian politicians have also raised objections to Telecom Italia being merged with a company in which the German state holds a 74 percent stake. The German government has, however, given assurances that it is committed to reducing its stake in Telekom from 2000. Asked specifically about the 60:40 split, Mr D'Alema said: "I cannot discuss rumours, especially with the markets open." In Berlin the German finance ministry said a merger was a business decision and not a political one. Finance ministry spokesman, Torsten Albig, said: "We haven't been officially informed. When we are informed by Telekom, and if Telekom views it positively, then we will go along with that."

## US and UK stocks hit new highs

BY DIANE COYLE  
AND LEA PATERSON

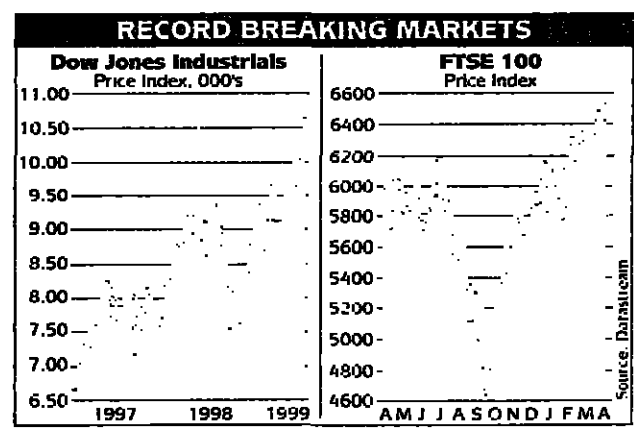
SHARE PRICES soared to new records in New York and London yesterday, driven by a sharp rise in the value of financial stocks in New York.

The Dow Jones index had leapt nearly 250 points to 10,734.7 by midday, helping the FTSE 100 index to a record closing high of 6,515.3, up 95 points.

Better than expected results from Citigroup, the biggest US financial services group, and also Bank of America, sent financial shares higher on Wall Street, although Internet stocks suffered a sharp setback.

Citigroup's first quarter profits climbed 9 per cent to \$2.36bn, a record. Operating income, excluding the \$33m cost of the group's restructuring, rose 12 per cent.

Analysts said renewed optimism about the economy and corporate earnings growth was behind the breathtaking performance on Wall Street. The Dow has gained more than 16 per cent since the New Year.



The gains in New York sent the FTSE to its new high yesterday. But many UK analysts remained cautious about the potential for further increases in share prices. "We are seeing bull market mania starting to overtake us. It has that flavour of 1987 about it," said Bob Semple of BT Alex Brown. In contrast to the optimism about the US economy, fears about slow growth in Europe and the impact of war took the euro to its lowest level yet on the foreign exchanges yesterday. Wim Duisenberg, president of the European Central Bank, said the weakness of the euro reflected slower growth in Europe

relative to the US. In the longer run the currency would strengthen, he predicted, describing the ECB's exchange rate policy as one of "neglect". The euro fell to a record low of under \$1.06 after his remarks. Mr Duisenberg told Euro MPs that the ECB's recent half point interest rate cut was meant to signal that it would not be repeated for the time being. Separately John Townend, the Bank of England's director responsible for European matters, said UK interest rates needed to be around twice the European level.

"GDP growth this decade has been much faster than in our continental European partners... As a result we have required, and still do require, interest rates roughly twice the Continental level," he said. His comments helped boost the pound. Sterling was also given a helping hand by new official figures which suggested that recent rises in the price of crude

oil had begun to feed through to inflation. UK producer price data - released yesterday by the Office for National Statistics - was stronger than the markets had been expecting, and dampened hopes of further aggressive cuts in interest rates. Producer input prices rose by a seasonally-adjusted 1.3 per cent last month, taking the annual rate to a two-and-a-half year high of minus 3.7 per cent.

Crude oil price increases were the main driver of the input price rises, analysts said, and were also a factor behind the stronger-than-expected jump in factory gate prices. Factory gate prices rose by 0.6 per cent last month, with changes introduced in the March Budget adding as much as 0.4 per cent to the headline rate, according to analysts. Separately, a survey by the consultants GfK showed UK consumer confidence did not change between March and April.

## Lure of Mammon proves too much for banker

JIM O'DONNELL, the high-flying investment banker who quit his £1m-a-year job at HSBC to train for the Catholic priesthood last year, has succumbed to the lure of Mammon once more.

Mr O'Donnell, 37, a former American footballer, has signed up as managing director and deputy head of equities

in Europe for Salomon Smith Barney in London. He will start his new job on 1 July.

Mr O'Donnell was not available to explain his change of heart. But given that it takes six years to train for the Catholic priesthood, he had

clearly not got very far towards that goal.

Robert DiFazio, the head of European equities at Salomon Smith Barney to whom Mr O'Donnell will report, said yesterday: "We are delighted that Jim has opted to return to the securities business and even more so that he has chosen SSB as the firm to

provide him with this opportunity.

"He is an extraordinary talent who will bring leadership and an extensive knowledge of industry to the firm." His original decision to turn his back on a lucrative career to pursue a higher calling hit the headlines last year. As a priest in New York, he

could have expected to take home a salary of less than \$6,000 a year, less than 1 per cent of what he was earning on Wall Street.

Mr O'Donnell, an American citizen who holds a Bachelor Degree in Comparative Religion from Princeton, spent 11 years in the City before returning to New York in

1995 to head up HSBC Securities.

A spokesman for the Catholic Media Office reacted stoically to the news: "It is important for Christians to be in the workplace, in some cases more important."

"Christianity is not something that should just be practiced behind seminary walls."

### AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

#### LONDON

LONDON SHARES soared to an all-time high yesterday boosted by an opening rally in New York and a flurry of domestic takeover speculation. A strong opening on Wall Street, which was over 200 points higher when London closed, provided a firm underpinning for the FTSE 100. The blue-chip index closed 94.7 higher at 6,515.3, a record high, on large turnover of over 1.4bn shares traded. The smaller indices were also in record-breaking form. Derek Pain, page 15

#### NEW YORK

THE DOW JONES index was 16.83 higher at noon, after an erratic morning, but trading was subdued. More merger news helped shares move higher initially but the National Association of Purchasing Managers' March index leapt to 54.3, signalling increasing inflationary pressures and undermining bonds and shares. Yahoo and Broadcast.com both gained sharply after Yahoo announced a \$5.7bn offer and pushed the Nasdaq higher.

#### TOKYO

SHARES IN Tokyo failed to follow the trend on other Asian markets and the Nikkei 225 share index closed 177.37 down at 16,674.21. Worries about the future earnings of hi-tech companies spread to Tokyo from the US and telecoms also suffered from profit-taking, led by NTT DoCoMo, NTT and NTT Data. Sony shed 160 to 11,450 yen, reflecting the strong currency, while other consumer electronics were mixed. Banks generally weakened.

#### HONG KONG

THE HANG SENG index broke through the 13,000 barrier only to fall back in late trading to close just 276.14 better at 12,766.44 - a net gain of 2.2 per cent, and the highest closing level since the crash of November 1997. Utilities led the gains, ahead of property, finance and then commerce and industry. The recovery on East Asian stock markets gathered strength with gains of 7 per cent in Jakarta, 5.5 per cent in Manila and 4.4 per cent in Singapore.

#### PARIS

EUROPEAN SHARES followed Wall Street higher and the CAC-40 share index in Paris reached a new closing high for the year, up 78.43 at 4,379.34, a gain of 1.82 per cent, in spite of a 5.44 per cent slump in France Telecom, which knocked 30 points off the index. Among the biggest rises were shares which fell on Friday after falling out of the Eurotop 100 share index, including LVMH, up 10 per cent, L'Oréal, which rose 8 per cent, and Saint-Gobain which rose more than 6 per cent.

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# Bonds are the punters' favourite

**News Analysis:** Low interest rates are pushing record numbers of savers away from deposit accounts and into stock market-related investments

EVIDENCE THAT British savers are engaged in a massive switch of funds away from low-interest deposit accounts began to mount yesterday when investment firms reported unprecedented sales of share-based products.

Norwich Union, one of the largest life insurers, reported record sales of lump-sum investment bonds in the first three months of 1999. Sales of the bonds, which allow savers to participate in the stock market while reducing their risk, more than doubled to £164m.

Earlier this month, Axa Sun Life reported a similarly spectacular jump, with sales of lump-sum bonds up 109 per cent to £335.5m. Friends Provident, another life insurer, reported a 64 per cent leap in sales.

The results signal a quiet but highly significant boom in share-based investments on a scale which rivals the boom in Personal Equity Plans in the first quarter of this year.

Both Norwich Union, led by chief executive Richard Harvey, and Axa Sun Life attribute the boom to the tiny returns now available on deposit accounts. Hundreds of thousands of investors, most of them retired, depend on getting a high rate of interest on their savings to supplement their income.

In the last two years alone, savings rates have followed mortgage rates in plummeting to their lowest level since the 1960s. Save £10,000, lock it up for 90 days, and one of the best interest rates available is from the Alliance & Leicester - just 5.25 per cent. Put it on instant access and the rates barely beat inflation - the Midland Bank's instant access rate is just 2.75 per cent.

Ned Cazalet, a leading expert on the investment industry at Cazalet Financial Consulting,

BY ANDREW VERITY

said: "There is an awful lot of money sitting in the accounts of building societies earning less than 3 per cent. Since the exit from the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992, the psychology has remained that you can get interest rates of 10 per cent. But most people don't continually check these things: it's only now that people are properly waking up to just how low they have got."

Appalled by the rates, savers are beginning to shift into two types of lump-sum investment bond. With-profits bonds, based on the bonuses doled out every year from life insurers' funds, typically offer 6 or 7 per cent. There is also a multi-billion pound trade in equity bonds - derivatives-based products that offer to imitate the stock market while protecting against a crash.

Ken Raynor, an investment expert at Bradford & Bingley, one of the country's largest independent financial advisers, says: "More than 40 per cent of investors are looking for income rather than growth from their savings and there is a definite move to creating more income. People's perspectives are changing as their income from traditional places reduces."

But there is a flip-side to the boom. Independent financial advisers warn that savers must avoid rushing away from deposits without realising exactly what they are losing - the fact that in a deposit account, their capital is guaranteed.

"People need to be careful about this. When they see annual bonuses of 6 or 7 per cent they need to realise that it is not the same thing as interest rates. There's a risk to their capital involved," says Mr Raynor. Industry observers fear another worrying trend may be at work among the people who sell the products, financial advisers. The fear is that advisers are selling them in such quantities only because they are afraid to sell their normal core products - pensions.



Richard Harvey, chief executive of Norwich Union, with a cut out from an advertisement designed to encourage stock market investment. FT

The Financial Services Authority (FSA), the City regulator, recently issued guidance to advisers on personal pensions.

The guidance can only be ignored at the risk of losing the right to work in financial services. It warned advisers against selling pension products with high up-front charges.

The guidance stemmed from the authority's concern about stakeholder pensions, the Government's much-cherished scheme for encouraging retirement saving. The FSA was worried that people would switch out of personal pensions to stakeholder pensions after a couple of years, getting bad value for money for their early contributions and drawing accusations of mis-selling.

The fear is that the regulator has taken a sledgehammer to crack a nut. By warning against selling pensions with up-front charges, the FSA is effectively warning advisers away from

most types of personal pension. Without high up-front charges, there is usually no high up-front commission.

Afraid of selling pensions - the bread and butter of a typical high street IFA - advisers are now concentrating on investment business - and bonds are one type of product that still pays a high commission.

Les Owen, chief executive of Axa Sun Life, is warning that ultimately this could defeat the Government's aim of selling more pensions, causing a "pensions blight". Financial advisers, for now, feel safer selling investment bonds.

## INTEREST RATES ON SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

What the big high street banks will pay (£10,000 deposit)

Provider	Account	Rate, %
NatWest Bank	no notice	2.95
	90 days' notice	3.25
Midland Bank	no notice	2.75
	60 days' notice	4.70
Lloyds Bank	no notice	3.75
	90 days' notice	3.90
Barclays Bank	no notice	2.50
	60 days' notice	4.25
Abbey National	no notice	1.55
	90 days' notice	3.99
Royal Bank of Scotland	no notice	2.30
	60 days' notice	4.70

## Raising money for a dream car

THE GERMANS, Japanese and Americans may dominate British mass-market car manufacturing, but the 100-odd remaining British-owned car makers are in good health.

So says Ian Macpherson, who is raising £3.2m on Oxf for his Silverstone-based company, Strathcarron Sports Cars.

He needs the cash to manufacture the Strathcarron SC-4, a £20,000 sports car which uses the company's very latest racing car technology.

The SC-4 was unveiled at the Geneva Motor Show last month by Lord Strathcarron, Mr Macpherson's father, Lord Strathcarron, 75, is president of the Guild of Motoring Writers and head of the Clan Macpherson.

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Mr Macpherson Junior says they have already raised about half the new money, which will account for nearly a third of the company, through the pre-planning.

"Investors will get priority in the waiting list for the new car," he adds.

Strathcarron's management includes Martin Miles, a production engineer who sold his own company, Burdon & Miles, Colin Spooner, formerly technical director at Lotus, and Sue Ball, who was previously financial director of Bolton Wanderers Football Club.



## Power failure

POOR OLD Battersea Power Station is up for sale - again. Plans by the present owners, Parkview International, for a cinema, theatre and hotel complex seem to be coming apart, and the Hong Kong group has hoisted the "for sale" sign over the 30-acre site.

The famous building on the Thames has had a sad history since the Central Electricity Generating Board stopped burning coal there in 1963. Developer John Broome bought

it in 1987 with grandiose plans for a theme park, but building problems and lack of finance drove his scheme into liquidation in 1994.

In 1988 Baroness Thatcher visited the site and said Mr Broome's venture was "a wonderful example of private enterprise and local government working hand in hand for the benefit of Britain."

The Iron Lady continued: "This colossal undertaking has that touch of pure genius... that has always made Britain great."

In the event Mr Broome managed to remove the station's roof before the money ran out. The site has remained derelict ever since.

## End of the line

THE PLANNING director from London Transport who presided over the building of the Jubilee

Line extension, the Docklands Light Railway and Croydon's tram network, is retiring after working over 30 years on the capital's infrastructure.

David Bayliss is retiring from LT after 15 years there to join transport consultants Halcrow Fox on a part-time basis.

Mr Bayliss joined London Transport in 1984, having worked with various bits of the now defunct Greater London Council since 1966.

So, I ask him, will the Jubilee Line extension open in time for the millennium, to form the Dome's only link with the outside world? "I'm pretty sure the sun will rise tomorrow," says Mr Bayliss. "I'm almost as sure the Jubilee extension will be open in time. They should get a fat lady to sing when it opens."

Mr Bayliss's one great regret is the death of Crossrail, another project designed to ease

the capital's congestion. "But a new London Mayor may revive it," he says, hopefully.

## Millennium bust

BACK IN January, I was having lunch with Roger Oldfield, a senior corporate rescue partner with KPMG, when halfway through the meal he was unexpectedly summoned away on "an urgent mission". He was forbidden to divulge what it was.

Yesterday, Mr Oldfield re-

vealed that he had been appointed receiver to Prove It 2000, a millennium bug consultancy based in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, which had gone bust.

"It had a blue-chip client list, including Daimler Benz, and I managed to sell it on," Mr Oldfield says. Which is just as well, he adds, since millennium bug firms "by their very nature have a limited shelf life."

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

## COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Anglo-British Foods (F)	1,960m (1,960m)	109m (183.0m)	5.8p (14.5p)	4.75p (4.25p)	-	-
Ben Bailey (F)	37.1m (23.1m)	1.5m (1.3m)	10p (6.6p)	2.5p (2.2p)	-	-
CNC Properties (F)	15.41m (11.35m)	5.2m (4.1m)	9.3p (10.6p)	3.7p (3.2p)	-	-
Deutsche Bank (F)	36.78m (30.25m)	0.855m (1,277m)	-3.47p (1.88p)	nil (1.60p)	-	-
Forrester Group (F)	15.77m (11.81m)	0.855m (0.713m)	-4.5p (4.7p)	1.6p (1.4p)	-	-
Harvey Nash Group (F)	104.85m (51.14m)	6.67m (4.78m)	20.59p (12.14p)	5.4p (4.65p)	-	-
HL Entertainment (F)	6.9m (6.0m)	1.375m (1.146m)	5.5p (4.3p)	0.605p (0.55p)	-	-
HL Entertainment (F)	4.724m (0.32m)	0.708m (0.312m)	2.00p (1.04p)	0.30p (-)	-	-
Office, Text & Energy Corp (F)	US \$52.99m (11.02m)	1.464m (0.94m)	4.06p (-)	-	-	-
Skypharm (F)	10.9m (13.8m)	-22.0m (-17.7m)	-5.7p (-5.1p)	-	-	-

(F) = float (F) = interim \*Source: Dividend 50p

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# Why merge these telecoms monsters?

WE'RE ALL for the spirit of European integration at *The Independent*, but for Deutsche Telekom to merge with Telecom Italia is surely taking the process too far. The Italian government, which retains a golden share in Telecom Italia, would be crazy to allow it to take place.

Both these companies maintain an iron grip on their own domestic markets; when it comes to monopoly, they make our own British Telecom seem like an also-ran. Deutsche even has a cable network stretching to some 20 million households on top of its ordinary telephone monopoly. By any standards, this would be a monstrously anti-competitive alliance.

From a shareholder value perspective too, it is hard to see how this deal can benefit either party. Both of them are hopelessly inefficient, fat and lazy by world class benchmarks in this industry. Despite its publicly listed status, Telecom Italia is still essentially a branch of government bureaucracy and Deutsche Telekom isn't much better.

Jumping into bed together is hardly going to help address these



## OUTLOOK

deeply rooted business inefficiencies; indeed it might even reinforce them. Much better placed to modernise Telecom Italia would be our own British Telecom. With 10 years more experience of liberalised telecoms markets under its belt than its European peers, BT has already managed to transform itself from government monopoly into efficiently run business.

Yet even BT has balked at the idea of taking on Telecom Italia. If BT thinks it would have problems, what chance Deutsche?

In the end, this mooted merger may founder on Italian pride. The Italian Government says it would contemplate only an equal partnership, but is it really possible to forge a merger of equals when one company is so much bigger than the other? Shareholders and customers of both companies ought to pray that it is not.

## Spanish prices

THE LIMITATIONS of Euroland's one-size-fits-all interest rate policy are being tested early. When the single currency was on the drawing board, few people foresaw that it would be Germany, the Continent's powerhouse, that would be flagging while the peripheral countries enjoyed robust growth.

The recent half-point interest rate cut by the European Central Bank was essentially a response to weak growth at the core at a time when economic indicators for the smaller countries in the euro-11 pointed to no change in policy. Wim

Duisenberg, president of the ECB, indicated again yesterday that he was worried about the inflationary impact of the weak euro, and would not be in a hurry to reduce interest rates again.

Little wonder then that the Spanish government has decided to tackle head-on its higher-than-average inflation rate (at 2.2 per cent compared to the 0.8 per cent average). It has announced a package of measures to reduce charges by the gas, electricity and telephone companies, and cut motorway tolls and prescription charges. The measures are intended to slice 0.2-0.3 points directly off consumer prices this year.

Reductions in directly administered prices have helped trim the UK inflation rate over the years too, and are not to be sneezed at, even though the long-term consequences of putting more money into consumers' pockets are themselves sometimes inflationary. Spain is also, sensibly, boosting competition in the utilities markets.

All the same, the constraints imposed on policy by a single currency

and single interest rate could scarcely be clearer. This is certainly the conclusion John Townsend, the Bank of England director responsible for euro matters, drew yesterday when he said Britain needed rates at roughly twice European levels. It was right for the UK not to have joined in the first wave, he said, given the divergence between the British and Continental economies.

If this argument is taken too far, however, Britain never will join, and most of the existing members should not have either. The lesson of the Spanish measures is that governments can still use taxes and other policies to tackle inflationary pressures. If the British economy is as flexible as we like to think, it is hard to see a move to lower Euro-style interest rates as such a terrible threat.

## Kingfisher/Asda

HAVING HAD a weekend to sleep on it and now with a formal statement to feed upon, the logic of Kingfisher's £180m tie-up with Asda remains as

bewildering as ever. True enough, size gives companies more financial muscle in doing deals and provides greater protection when things go wrong. In a larger company, the fall-out gets lost in the wash.

But does Kingfisher really need Asda to help develop B&Q in Brazil, Taiwan and Poland, as its stock exchange announcement implied yesterday? The very idea is, frankly, a laughable one.

There are some synergies in this deal, of course. There will be some buying benefits from overlapping areas like confectionery and children's clothing, plus the usual distribution and administrative savings. There will also be some cross-selling benefits from putting the George label of Asda clothing in Woolies, and so on.

But the more you look at this merger, the more defensive it seems on both sides. For Asda to accept the deal on these terms, with such a paltry premium for change of control, can only be a sign of management unease about the future. Asda is going great guns now, but with Tesco

sweeping all before it, what will the picture look like two or three years out?

For Kingfisher this deal looks more and more like an anti-Wal-Mart invasion device. It was only a few years ago that Kingfisher started rolling out the huge B&Q Warehouse format when rumours were rife of the American Home Depot chain coming to these shores. The creation of a Woolies-Asda behemoth looks like similar thinking.

There is also the quest for scale for its own sake. Never underestimate management ego in this regard. This deal would enable Sir Geoff Mulcahy to stride the global stage as one of the world's top 10 retailers. Perhaps that is the biggest motivation of all.

In the City there is still some hope that Asda will attract a higher offer, perhaps from Wal-Mart itself, or at least that Kingfisher might be persuaded into raising its bid. Investors would be unwise to count on it. This is a poor deal, and it is not going to be improved by upping the terms of the share swap offer.

## Spain cuts utility prices to fight inflation

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

THE SPANISH government has announced wide-ranging cuts in utilities prices in an attempt to choke off domestic inflation, which is running well ahead of the European average.

The government has claimed that the cuts in gas, electricity and telephone prices will knock 0.2-0.3 per cent off the country's inflation rate, which spiked up from 1.8 per cent in February to 2.2 per cent last month. That is well above the average euro zone inflation rate of 0.8 per cent.

It is the first move by a European government to get round the one-size-fits-all interest rate policy for the euro area since the 10 euro countries gave up power to set their own interest rates at the start of the year.

The price cuts, which range from 1.5 per cent for electricity to as much as 10 per cent for some telephone charges, have been broadly welcomed by economists. But the fact that the burden has fallen heavily on the corporate sector - most of Spain's utilities are publicly quoted - has upset stock market investors.

Analysts said that the deci-

sion raises the question of whether other governments will now be tempted to find similar ways around the problem of how to regain control of the economy now that power over interest rates has been ceded to the European Central Bank in Frankfurt.

One broker said yesterday: "They don't have recourse to interest rates any more to fine-tune their economic policy, therefore these are the only measures available to them to do something specific to their economy."

The recent decision to cut euro interest rates by 0.5 per cent was welcomed in Germany, where the flagging economy is in need of a kick-start, but has raised concern in faster-growing economies such as Spain and Ireland, where tighter monetary policy would have been appropriate.

Spain has also announced a 7 per cent cut in motorway tolls and a reduction in the margin for wholesale sales of medical prescriptions and notary charges.

Outlook, this page

## Possible Airtours bid lifts rivalry

BY NIGEL COPE  
Associate City Editor

SHARES IN First Choice Holidays rose sharply yesterday on speculation that Airtours might muscle in on its planned merger with Kuoni by launching a £750m hostile bid for the company.

First Choice shares closed 14.5p higher at 190p despite an attempt by the company's chief executive Ian Clubb, to warn Airtours off.

Just a day after he said an Airtours bid would be a "reckless gamble", Thomson Travel said it would not stand on the sidelines if a bid battle developed. A successful bid by Airtours for First Choice would wrench the market leader position away from Thomson in the UK market, a position it guards jealously.

"We have been market leader in the UK for 25 years and we have no intention of losing that position," Thomson said.

Industry figures compiled by AC Nielsen show that Thomson had a 28 per cent share for package holidays in the summer 1998 season to October. That compared with 19 per cent for Airtours and 15 per cent each for Thomas Cook and First Choice.

Critics of the First Choice-Kuoni deal have argued that it does not solve First Choice's weakness of lacking its own chain of high street travel agents. Airtours would be able to add its Going Places chain and bring out additional cost savings.

Airtours declined to comment. Its shares edged 10.5p lower to 488.5p.

## Inchcape to return £530m to investors

BY AMY FRIZZELL

INCHCAPE, the mini-conglomerate which is in the middle of transforming itself into an international car distributor, is planning to return £530m to shareholders through a special 100p-a-share dividend following the sale of its Latin American interests.

Shares in Inchcape yesterday climbed 12.5p to 155p as the group confirmed it would pay the special dividend after it sells its South American Coca-Cola bottling business.

Inchcape said the sale of its soft-drink bottling business, which was announced earlier this year, was subject to certain financing arrangements being completed by the purchaser, the Chilean soft-drink maker Embotelladora Arica.

"These arrangements are well advanced and are expected to be finalised shortly," Inchcape said, adding that further details would be included in a circular it is sending to shareholders, who need to approve the disposal.

Embotelladora Arica agreed to pay £750m for Inchcape's soft-drink bottling interests in Chile and Bolivia in February. Inchcape initially announced plans for its disposal programme last March when it decided to focus solely on its car distribution business.

At the beginning of this month it also announced the sale of its marketing interests in the Middle East to Cupola Investments for £72m. That deal followed the £93m sale of its Asia Pacific marketing business.

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# Mirror ahead on talk of German interest

TAKEOVER RUMOURS returned to haunt Mirror Group yesterday as blue-chips surged to another record high on the back of a soaring Dow and domestic bid speculation.

The publishing group made the headlines with a 7p advance to 218.5p amid talk, albeit vague, of a renewed interest from the German group Axel Springer. The German publisher approached Mirror with a 240p informal offer last summer but was rebuffed by the then chief executive David Montgomery.

The feisty Ulsterman has since fallen victim to a boardroom scuffle and has been replaced by the former Mirror regional titles boss John Allwood. Dealers are now betting that Axel could exploit the change of management and come back with a bid of around 240-250p, valuing the publisher of the red-top tabloid at around £1.1bn.

The Germans' rekindled interest could trigger a bid war with Trinity and Regional Independent Media, who are also thought to be in the frame. The two regional publishers were rebuffed by the Mirror board in January but still harbour takeover ambitions. PDM, the activist

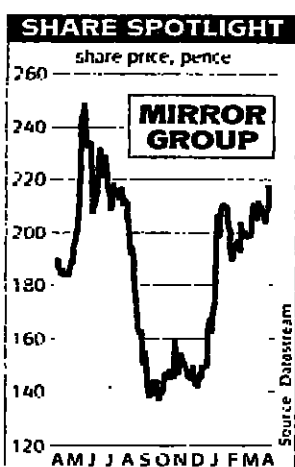
THERE IS some talk of corporate activity at Rosebys. The furniture retailer rose a comfortable 13p to 124p yesterday, amid speculation that the management is preparing to take the company private. Traders believe that the buyout could be pitched at around 160p, valuing the company at nearly £60m. Any action is expected after the results, due in a few weeks. Brokers are expecting around £11m, compared with £13m posted in 1998.

shareholder, owns 20 per cent of Mirror and traders believe that it would take a serious look at an offer of around 250p. The rumours about Mirror were not the only takeover whispers to excite the market.

## MARKET REPORT



FRANCESCO GUERRERA



The blissful combination of bid talk and a 200-plus advance in New York at the London close left the FTSE 100 index 94.7 points higher at a all-time high of 6,515.3, on a hefty turnover of over 1.4 billion shares.

The undercard was also in record-breaking mood. The FTSE 250 ended 53.2 up to 5849.4, the highest for the year. A feat copied by the Small Cap, which closed 22.5 higher at 2489.6.

Marks & Spencer was high on the speculators' list, amid feverish talk that the legendary investor Warren Buffett is buying the stock. The country's premier retailer displayed a 9.25p rise to 433.25p after a little-known US fund, Brandes Investment Partners, said it had a 3 per cent stake.

The disclosure sparked rumours that "the sage of Omaha" could be behind the purchase, making M&S his UK blue-chip of choice. The Buffett link seems somewhat unlikely, as Brandes revealed that it had bought the shares on behalf of 100 custodian

banks. The mystery will soon be revealed as M&S has lodged an official request to find out who is behind Brandes.

The "spot-the-Buffett" game did not stop with M&S. The drinks group Allied Domecq, up 3.5p to 502.5p and Halifax bank, up 13.5p to 918p on the day of the completion of the Birmingham Midshires acquisition, were also popular choices. The Buffett mania spilled over to Diageo, which fizzled 39p higher to 918p. However, the rise was more likely due to an upbeat trading statement by its French rival LVMH and impending news on the sale of its Spanish breweries.

Back in the non-Buffett world, bids, real and imagined, were all the rage. Kingfisher, the DIY-to-Superdrug giant, drilled a 44p drop to 796p after disappointing the City with sketchy details of the £1bn tie-up with Asda. The supermarket group checked out with a 5p drop to 193.75p.

Hopes of a counterbid from the French retailers Carrefour and Promodes or Wal-Mart of the US are still there, but there is also talk that the US retail powerhouse is eyeing Safeway. The chain rose 8p to 268p with a chunky 19.8 million shares traded.

Sainsbury, up 24.75p to 415p, was also dragged into the bid frenzy. Associated British Food was the icing on the food retailers' cake. The maker of Silver Spoon sugar put on a sweet 17.25p to 443.5p after pledging a £48m cash-back. Incheape, the slimmed-down conglomerate, surged 12.5p to 155p after promising a £50m special dividend. Tomkins, the not-so-slimmed-down conglomerate, lost 3p to 252.5p on huge turnover, after buying back 167 million shares.

The holiday group First Choice travelled 14.5p higher to 190p amid persistent talk that its merger with the Swiss group Kuoni will be trumped by a bid by Airtours, down 10.5p to 488.5p.

AstraZeneca, the drug giant, broke a 13-day duck and rose 32p to 2,611, the first rise since the merged group started trading.

Bid speculation and rumours of a large finding in the

Gulf of Mexico supported British Sugar. Kingsmill bread and Twinings tea, is to return £448m to shareholders by way of a special dividend. ABF said it was making the cash return after balking at the price of major acquisitions on both sides of the Atlantic. The move will be paid by a special dividend of 50p per share and reduce ABF's cash pile by a third, taking it to just below £7bn.

Harry Bailey, deputy chairman, said: "We have spent £140m on acquisitions this year so far, but for deals of a substantial size we do not see any value, whether in the UK or in continental Europe, or in the US."

The company said that with interest rates falling there was a good case for returning part of the cash to shareholders. Though the company did not suggest there would be further payouts, analysts said there might be more to come if acquisitions stayed expensive.

The company has been on the lookout for food ingredient deals, particularly in the US, but prices are still seen as too high. However, the company did pull off the £215m purchase of SPI Polyoils in October.

GENUS, an Ofex-traded cattle breeding and agricultural consultancy, yesterday made a £20.7m bid for VDC, a distributor of medicines for animals quoted on AIM. The 190p-per-share cash offer, pitched at a 43 per cent premium to VDC share price before takeover talks were announced, has not yet been recommended by the veterinary supply company. VDC's shares, up 20p to 195p yesterday, were below their 142p float price before the start of bid talks.

ance of the takeover of Ulstein. Large US buyers were said to be moving in, attracted by the company's exposure to the Kosovo war. Investors, the former BTR Siebe, made its debut with the new name, rising 9.25p to 330.25p.

HSBC was another one to defy Lehman's removal and sank a 28p rise to a 12-month peak of 2,303p, mirroring the all-time high of its Hong Kong-traded shares.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.49 billion  
SEAQ TRADES: 104,540  
GILTS INDEX: 110.95 +0.05

# ABF to hand £448m back to shareholders

ASSOCIATED British Foods, the conglomerate that includes British Sugar, Kingsmill bread and Twinings tea, is to return £448m to shareholders by way of a special dividend. ABF said it was making the cash return after balking at the price of major acquisitions on both sides of the Atlantic. The move will be paid by a special dividend of 50p per share and reduce ABF's cash pile by a third, taking it to just below £7bn.

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## Harvey Nash shares fall 5% on warning

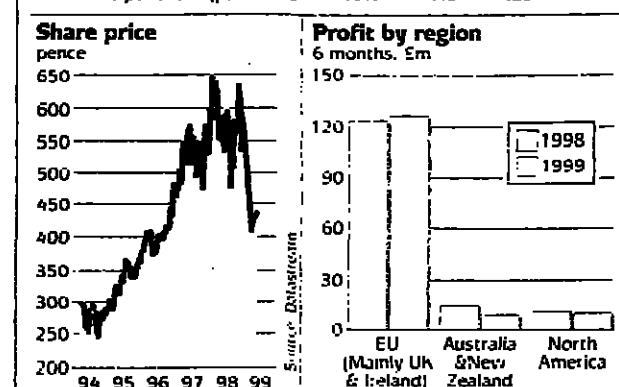
SHARES IN Harvey Nash, the IT recruitment services group, dropped more than 5 per cent yesterday as the group surprised the City with cautious remarks about IT investment in the run-up to year 2000. In spite of a 70 per cent jump in full-year pre-tax profits, well above analysts' expectations, the shares came off 17.5p to close at 322.5p.

The share price fell after Harvey Nash acknowledged that IT demand for IT personnel had weakened in autumn last year. The group said there were signs of a fresh pick-up in demand over the past month. "However, we expect companies to take a cautious view of IT investment in 1999, particularly as the millennium approaches," it said.

David Higgins, joint managing director, said the warning should not be exaggerated. "We are already hearing of the recession receding and it's fair to

## ASSOCIATED BRITISH FOODS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £3.9bn, share price 443.5p (+17.25p)					
Five year record	96	97	98	97/98	98/99
	— 6 months				
Turnover (£bn)	5.7	5.2	4.2	1.96	1.98
Pre-tax profits (£m)	430	850	391	193	109
Earnings per share (p)	31.0	75.6	29.6	14.5	14.0
Dividends per share (p)	9.5	15.0	10.5	4.25	4.25



Jackson, currently the head of British Sugar, moves up to the chief executive position in June. The hope is that he will take a long look at some of ABF's low-returning assets, such as baking and milling, and some of its ice-cream interests. Investec Henderson Crosthwaite is expecting full-year profits of around £400m. On yesterday's closing price of 441p, up 14.75p, the shares trade on a forward multiple of 14. Much depends on the strength of sterling, but at these levels the shares look good value, analysts say.

## SkyePharma reveals £16.4m operating loss

DRUG DELIVERY group SkyePharma reported a £16.4m loss for the year ending 31 December, but attention focused on the company's product delivery rather than its 37.8 per cent increase in operating loss.

Anxiety over the launch of the anti-depressant Paxil CR, which SkyePharma reformulated for SmithKline Beecham, pushed shares down 3p to close at 66.5p. Genhills Lloyd Harris, a biotech analyst at Credit Suisse First Boston, said: "With every day that goes past it's looking less likely that SmithKline Beecham is going to launch Paxil CR; it looks like a small product or a non product."

Ian Gowrie-Smith, the SkyePharma chairman, said the drug would "not be as big as highest expectations" but that it should still be successful. He added that speculation about the future of Paxil CR had been

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Country	Sterling Spot	1 month	3 month	Dollar Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro
UK	1.0000			0.6216	0.6219	0.6220	0.6602
Australia	2.4683	2.4684	2.4682	1.5350	1.5352	1.5353	1.6302
Austria	20.844	20.831	20.819	12.958	12.955	12.950	13.7603
Belgium	61.102	61.079	60.714	37.987	37.987	37.766	40.340
Canada	2.3837	2.3827	2.3802	1.4818	1.4816	1.4806	1.5737
Denmark	11.262	11.240	11.202	7.0008	6.9905	6.9678	7.4348
Finland	1.5147			0.9416			1.0000
France	9.936	9.913	9.872	6.1769	6.1652	6.1409	6.5996
Germany	2.9627	2.9557	2.9436	1.8417	1.8383	1.8310	1.9538
Greece	482.89	484.35	487.93	306.27	307.45	309.72	325.26
Hong Kong	12.464	12.458	12.463	7.7480	7.7482	7.7525	8.2284
Ireland	1.1930	1.1902	1.1883	0.7416	0.7410	0.7364	0.7876
Italy	293.1	292.62	291.42	182.33	181.99	181.7	199.27
Japan	189.26	188.41	186.84	117.65	117.18	116.22	124.94
Malaysia	6.1128	6.1085	6.1004	3.8000	3.8550	3.9750	4.0396
Mexico	15.101			3.3303	3.3166		3.9657
Netherlands	2.3392	2.3375	2.3372	2.0752	2.0712	2.0630	2.1937
New Zealand	1.2523	1.2538	1.2558	0.5484	0.5484	0.5484	0.5773
Norway	12.523	12.538	12.558	7.7846	7.7975	7.8113	8.2674
Portugal	303.69	302.98	301.74	188.79	188.45	187.89	200.48
Saudi Arabia	6.0359	6.0329	6.0404	3.7503	3.7521	3.7573	3.9628
Singapore	2.7419	2.7319	2.7161	1.7045	1.6991	1.6895	1.8102
South Africa	6.7253	6.7057	6.6841	6.0643	6.0613	6.0513	6.4108
Spain	257.04	257.45	250.42	156.68	156.39	155.77	166.386
Sweden	13.455	13.422	13.379	8.3643	8.3535	8.3223	8.8929
Switzerland	2.4249	2.4158	2.3993	1.5074	1.5025	1.4975	1.6009
US	1.0000			1.0000			0.9416

## OTHER SPOT RATES

Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6160	1.0046	Oman	0.6192	0.3850
Brazil	2.4824	1.6875	Pakistan	81.349	50.570
China	13.318	8.727	Philippines	81.169	38.025
Czech Rep	57.184	35.548	Poland	6.4507	4.0100
Egypt	5.5246	3.4343	Qatar	5.9547	3.6395
Ghana	393.3	244.50	Russia	4.1101.0	255.00.0
Hungary	380.35	236.44	South Korea	193.8	120.04
India	68.898	42.830	Taiwan	52.587	32.690
Indonesia	1382.3	859.0	Thailand	60.075	37.345
Kuwait	0.4811	0.3053	Turkey	61.622	38.450
Nigeria	149.60	93.000	UAE	5.9086	3.6730

## INTEREST RATES

UK	5.25%	Discount	5.00%	Pepco(Ave)	2.90%
Base					
European Central Bank		Discount	2.75%	Discount	0.50%
O/N Marginal 3 50%				Discount	0.50%
O/N Facility 1 50%		Prime	7.75%	Discount	0.50%
Repo	2.50%	Discount	4.50%	Lombard	2.75%
Canada		Fed Funds	4.63%		
Prime	6.50%	Sweden			

## BOND YIELDS

Country	3 month	6 month	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr	5 yr	10 yr	chg
Australia	4.65	0.10	4.59	-0.06	4.72	-0.07	5.05	-0.05
Belgium	2.52	-0.01	2.61	0.01	2.61	-0.05	3.43	-0.05
Canada	4.44	0.00	4.61	0.01	4.66	0.00	4.47	0.03
Euro	2.62	0.00	2.71	0.00	2.75	0.00	3.29	0.01
France	2.62	0.00	2.41	0.00	2.70	-0.04	3.39	0.05
Germany	2.62	0.00	2.71	0.00	2.75	-0.03	3.12	-0.03
Italy	2.59	0.00	2.69	0.02	2.85	-0.01	3.27	-0.02
Japan	0.06	-0.01	0.11	-0.01	0.20	-0.02	0.72	-0.03
Netherlands	2.62	0.00	2.71	0.00	2.80	-0.02	3.28	-0.03
Spain	2.50	0.00	2.60	-0.03	2.73	-0.03	3.32	-0.02
Sweden	2.69	-0.02	2.92	-0.03	3.15	-0.02	3.57	0.00
Switzerland	0.97	0.00	1.16	0.00	1.41	-0.01	1.85	0.01
UK	4.93	0.01	5.35	0.01	4.51	-0.01	4.66	0.01
US	4.20	0.11	4.46	0.23	5.00	0.00	5.11	0.01

## MONEY MARKET RATES

Overnight	1 week	1 month	3 months	6 months	1 year
Treasury Bills					
LIBOR	5.31	5.31	5.33	5.33	5.35
Domestic Depos	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
European Depos	5.19	5.31	5.25	5.38	5.25
Eligible Bank Bills	5.18	5.11	5.06	5.01	5.04
Sterling CDs	5.24	5.17	5.24	5.17	5.24
European CDs	4.80	4.87	4.93		
Euro Libor	2.59	2.59	2.61	2.61	2.62

## LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Est. Hour	Open
Long Gilt	Jun-99	117.17	117.19	116.55	17525.00
5 Yr Gilt	Jun-99	107.82			79833.00
German Bund	Jun-99	115.35			
Italian Bond	Jun-99	114.69	114.70	112.94	19083.00
Japan Govt Bd	Jun-99	134.30	134.34	134.15	10898.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	94.86	94.85	94.81	24749.00
3 Mth Sterling	Jun-99	94.85	94.87	94.81	27095.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	97.38	97.38	97.37	424.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	97.38	97.38	97.38	20512.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	97.40	97.40	97.37	27553.00
2 Mth Euro	Jun-99	99.85			20944.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	99.80	99.81	99.80	6134.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	99.81	99.82	99.89	3966.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	97.38	97.38	97.33	10850.00
3 Mth Euro	Jun-99	97.38	97.38	97.38	1061.00
FTSE 100	Jun-99	6570.00	6575.00	6455.00	23894.00

## LIFFE FTSE 100 INDEX OPTION

Series	Call	Imp Vol	Put	Imp Vol	Call	Put	Call	Put	Call
6450	37		2	4	258	108	325	161	67
6500	13		32	8	221	118	295	180	-1
6550	5		82	12	189	132	265	200	61
6600	2	1	132	15	157	157	235	220	-1

## ENERGY AT 5:30PM

Brent Crude (\$/barrel)	Gas (\$/1000 cu ft)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)	WTI Crude (\$/barrel)
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2000



# SPORT

Cricket: Nottinghamshire count on the inspirational qualities of an old favourite to restore the glory



The Nottinghamshire director of cricket, Clive Rice (right), renews old acquaintances with his Middlesex counterpart, Mike Gatting, at a pre-season friendly at Southgate

Robert Hallam

## Wilkinson doubt puts Newcastle on alert

RUGBY UNION  
By DAVID LLEWELLYN

NEWCASTLE FACE the possibility of having to blood a rookie outside-half in their Allied Dunbar Premiership match against Richmond at Kingston Park tomorrow night.

The Falcons' crisis at No 10, which began when Rob Andrew suffered a dislocated shoulder at Wasps on Sunday, ruling him out for the rest of the season, deepened yesterday with the news that Jonny Wilkinson was having treatment on a twisted ankle.

The England centre is rated as only 50-50 for tomorrow's game, so Newcastle have put the England Under 21 fly-half David Walder on stand-by. Walder, a local product, has played just one first XV game in the Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup. If called upon to play, he would find Richmond a far different prospect.

Wilkinson was remaining optimistic about his chances of playing in his preferred position, one in which the England coach, Clive Woodward, has been reluctant to select him because of his lack of experience at club level. However, the timing of Wilkinson's move inside, if he does play, could have been better.

Wilkinson said: "I want to play at No 10, but not under these circumstances. I've enjoyed being outside Rob. This match against Richmond is going to be a massive challenge for us so soon after the Wasps game, particularly as I will be playing somewhere I haven't for a long time. But this team is very good when we have our backs to the wall."

There are also worries for the Tynesiders over Val'auga Tuigamala, who has a bruised thigh, but Tony Underwood is making a good recovery from a dead leg. Both players were injured against Wasps.

Richmond, like Newcastle are pushing for one of six European spots in the Premiership, but realistically two have already gone to the first and second, Leicester and Northampton respectively. The London side have games in hand but a lot still to do. They were boosted yesterday by the news that their Argentine scrum-half Agustin Pichot is back after turning out against a World XV in Buenos Aires at the weekend.

The debate about whether the Saracens prop, Roberto Grau, used his head illegally against the Leicester centre Craig Joiner has still not been settled. The Leicester manager, Dean Richards, said last night: "At Border the video and it is unclear what happened. We have another video and I am going to look at it tomorrow."

"If I am satisfied that something has gone on then my first thoughts would be to find out what Saracens are going to do about it. I will be consulting with Mark Evans (the Saracens director of rugby) and then obviously we will make a decision. I have spoken to Craig Joiner and, the thing is, he did not receive an injury, therefore he does not want to make a meal out of it."

Richards also revealed that he is studying another clip, or should that be footage, of an incident in which the Tigers No 8 Martin Corry appeared to be trodden on by a Saracens player and suffered a cut on the bridge of his nose. "It seems to have been accidental," said Richards, but he intends to have a chat with Evans about that one as well.

Meanwhile the Saracens coach, Francois Pienaar, says he believes the Rugby Football Union should change its rules to allow clubs to cite players who have already been dealt with by the referee. "If the referee books or warns a player for one thing when they actually did something else," explained Pienaar, "then we should be able to cite that player."

## Hard labour on the Rice fields

BY JON CULLEY

THE FIRST requirement for anyone meeting Clive Rice is a head for heights. To reach his office at Trent Bridge, you must first climb to the upper level of the two-tier Bridgeford Road stand and then - pausing only to exchange glances with top-deck passengers on a passing bus - scale an open metal staircase leading to what might be best described as a portable office on stilts. It is a terrific spot, so far as Rice is concerned: from there he can monitor his players' every move.

From the ground it might not appear quite so perfect. Positioned right next to the pavilion, it is an eerie that can scarcely be missed as players head for the dressing rooms, and the occupant can expect to be more readily likened to a vulture than an eagle. For sure, should Nottinghamshire's season deliver more of the diminishing returns of the last few, then departing batsmen or vanquished bowlers will not care to look upwards as they pass. The moustachioed man with the baseball cap covering his balding dome is unlikely to be greeting them with a cheery wave.

Around these parts, of course, Clive Rice is synonymous with success. Under his captaincy, Nottinghamshire won their first Championship for 52 years in 1981 and coupled it with the NatWest Trophy six years later in a double-

winning year. Even when he left, successful habits continued, yielding more silverware in 1989 (Benson and Hedges Cup) and 1991 (Sunday League). The last few summers, however, have been less bright. As a Test match ground, graced by the magnificent new Radcliffe Road stand, Trent Bridge has blossomed. Not so the team. In the Championship, the county's four-year record reads 11th, 17th, 13th, 16th. Which is why, despite previous rebuffs, Nottinghamshire felt moved last autumn, with the prospect of two divisions looming, to say farewell to Alan Ormrod and fax the Rice home in Johannesburg with an offer to become director of cricket too good to refuse.

Hence he sits in his eerie, his desk containing a three-year contract worth giving up his position as head of South Africa's cricket academy for, plotting Nottinghamshire's return to championship glory, starting at Leicester today. Only Tim Robinson, Paul Johnson and Kevin Evans remain from Rice's days as a player but, somehow, the remainder of the squad have had no need for them to

recount tales of the taskmaster who drove them to unimaginable heights; they know already they are in for a tough season.

Rice will be 50 this summer and last autumn had a four centimetre tumour, thankfully benign, removed from behind his left ear. "I woke up with a hell of a headache," he said. "Think of all the alcohol you have ever consumed in your life and you might have an idea of what it was like. I lost the hearing in my left ear but it was a price worth paying."

*'People who do not want to play can leave. People who say things like "I'm tired" can leave. That's how I see it from here'*

None the less, he has not mellowed much. Even before he had set eyes on the players who would become his charges, he made it clear what he would expect. "People who do not want to play can leave," he said. "People who say things like 'I'm tired, we play too much cricket nowadays' can leave. That's how I see it from here."

From his new perspective, nothing appears any different. "If someone does not want to give 100 per cent, I don't want to know his troubles," he said. "When I was running

the academy in South Africa you could see who was going to make it by who wanted to go that extra mile.

"It is not just 100 per cent but 110 per cent they have to give because that 10 per cent over and above drives them to heights they might not have thought they would ever achieve."

"I don't think the players will find me easy to please. If a batsman gets a 50 or an 80 or 90 that does not mean he will have done his job to my satisfaction because you look at the

scorecards any day and you will see lots of 50s, 80s and 90s. But if he gets 160 I will say well done.

"I've set every player a personal goal and challenged him to do better. I remember when Chris Broad joined us as a player, I set him a target that was 10 per cent better than anything he had achieved. He has since told me just how much that meant for him because within six weeks of coming here he was in the England side."

"I want to achieve the success I had as a player and reproduce it here, to get back into the side the passion for playing and playing to win. The players might not end up liking me but they will like winning and they will like the self-fulfilment."

In between quaking in their boots, however, the current crop of Trent Bridge under-achievers can take some heart: Rice at least thinks the bunch he took over in the 70s were worse. "Then the only thing that really mattered to the players was to finish one point ahead of Derbyshire, who were just as poor," he said.

Today the raw material is a lot more promising. It has saddened me to see the county falling away but these things go in cycles. You build a team up and that team will play and win for a few years but then start to tail off. The wheel has turned and they are at the bottom again but there is a nucleus there and they can come through and build it back up.

The key thing is self-belief. You've all got talent but it is who believes in themselves that matters. I have been pleasantly surprised by their attitude. They are a decent bunch of guys as well. But they have doubted their ability and as a result gone downhill. It is how we can make them believe in what they can do that is the key."

To that end, in part, he has signed, in place of Paul Strang as the over-

seas player, the one-time Sussex all-rounder Vashbert Drakes, an inspirational and talented West Indian based in South Africa whose non-participation in the Red Stripe Cup precludes his selection for the West Indies team.

"He is probably the best player not going to the World Cup," Rice said. "At Border his contribution to the team has been fantastic, especially to the younger bowlers. If he can do that here he will be a great asset."

There will be a role, too, for the likes of Broad, Graham Dilley and even Richard Hadlee, his partner in the glory days, who has agreed to mix a summer of speaking engagements with bowling "master classes" at Trent Bridge. "Cricket's great irony," Rice said, "is that just at the moment a player finally works out what the game is all about it is time for him to retire. But these are guys who know what they were trying to do and can pass that knowledge on."

Whether that knowledge empowers today's players to reproduce Rice's own success he cannot forecast. But he wants each player to at least fulfil his potential. "How quickly that happens depends upon individual attitudes," he said. "But if this team is capable of success I would expect them to get there in three to five years."

## Jenkins a necessity for the form-book Lions

RUGBY HAS developed so quickly in the past few years, not always in the most admirable directions, that the old fireside game of picking best-ever sides has become largely pointless. Indeed, I doubt whether even a Lions side of 1970-75 could in strength and fitness live with their counterparts today. What we can do, however, is select those counterparts. Whether there ever will be another Lions tour is a different question, even though a tour is scheduled.

Players who have not participated in the Five Nations this season are discounted, which leaves us without Allan Bateman, Will Greenwood and Jamie Mayer. But recent form is not the only guide. Past performances are taken into account too, notably of those who participated in the last,



ALAN WATKINS

triumphant tour of South Africa in 1997. No doubt two years is a long time in rugby. But it is not so long as to turn good players into bad ones, or vice versa.

Then Neil Jenkins was at full-back, from which position (with a little help from Jeremy Guscott,

Matt Dawson, Scott Gibbs and others) he won the series. But he does not like playing there. He informed the Welsh selectors accordingly. In the last four months he has had an outstanding season both as a kicker and, more surprisingly to his numerous detractors, as a playmaker.

Equally, there is no doubt that the outstanding outside half - perhaps the outstanding back - of the season was Gregor Townsend. He also is fussy. He does not like playing at outside centre, where he has sometimes been put.

I insist on including Jenkins for his kicking. Nor do I think Jonny Wilkinson an adequate substitute, partly because he is not quite so reliable a kicker, partly because playing him at inside centre, his current England position, would

eliminate either Gibbs or John Leslie from the side.

My solution is to leave Jenkins where he is and play Townsend at full-back. From here he has transformed international matches when he has come on as a substitute. He is certainly more than fast enough for a position which has, since the days of Andy Irvine, JPR Williams and Serge Blanco, become the most glamorous on the field. I can only hope he agrees with me and does not do a Jenkins.

As Jenkins' partner I am going for Gary Armstrong, who has had a fine, scrapping season. It is worth remarking that he, Townsend, Leslie and Alan Tait enjoyed the success they did because of accident brought about by the injuries to Bryan Redpath and Duncan Hodge.

In the absence of Bateman and the waning of Guscott, Tait is the natural choice at outside centre. Inside centre is more difficult because Leslie rivalled Townsend and maybe Tait also as back of the season. None the less, I choose Gibbs both because of his tackling and because of his try against England, which the great Bledwyn Williams would have been proud of.

The only wing and, indeed, the only England back who forces himself into the side is Dan Luger. With Wayne Proctor discarded, Nigel Walker retired and Denis Hickie confined to the television studios, sheer speed is in markedly short supply. Justin Bishop promised much, delivered little. Steve Hanley scored a try in his first international but broke a wrist. I am choosing Kenny Logan

for his strength and enthusiasm rather than for his erratic kicking, which could and should have won the match against England and given Scotland a Grand Slam.

Locks, in contrast to wing, have been luxuriating. The unsung hero of the Welsh win at Wembley was Chris Wyatt. Alas, such is the press of competition that he does not make either the Test pairing (Martin Johnson and Scott Murray) or the touring party.

The best No 8 was Lawrence Dallaglio, a position he settled down in after oscillating, in the same matches, with Richard Hill at No 6. It is in the later position that I am choosing him and giving the No 8 jersey to Scott Quinnell. This is not wholly justified by Quinnell's form. But he remains a player who, on his day, can inspire

colleagues and win matches. The outstanding No 7 was unarguably Martin Leslie.

The Test XV are: G Townsend; D Luger; A Tait; S Gibbs; K Logan; N Jenkins; G Armstrong; T Smith; K Wood; P Wallace; M Johnson; S Murray; L Dallaglio; S Quinnell; M Leslie.

To make up a party of 35 - a luxury justifiably claimed by the manager, Fran Cotton, in South Africa - we are taking an extra player at outside-half, scrum-half, hooker and lock, and in the back row.

The rest of the party are: S Howarth; J Bishop; J Guscott; J Leslie; S Hanley; J Wilkinson; A Thomas; R Howley; K Bracken; J Leonard; R Cockerill; G Jenkins; D Garforth; C Quinnell; J Davidson; T Rodder; C Charvis; E Peters; R Hill; N Back.



# Robbijo to follow legends

A LITTLE BIT of enchantment twinkles into life at Sandown on Saturday in the shape of the best mixed meeting of the year.

If you attend Escher this weekend it will be a little like carrying your own real life remote control. It will be possible to switch between the best of both the turf's codes, the chance to see a jumping horse that will forge itself into the National Hunt consciousness or a potential Derby winner.

The names spawned by this card provide chunky chapters in racing folklore. Sandown was founded in 1875 and its very first meeting was mixed. It now represents the changing of the seasons: out with the old jumpers and in with the new, as the sleek young things have been mighty fledglings indeed.

The Classic Trial was a quite magical guideline for one period of eight years. In that time Troy (1979), Henbit (1980), Shergar (1981) and Shahrastani (1986) went on to win the Derby. It was no tributory two years ago either when Benny The Dip and Silver Patriarch filled second and third places behind Voyagers Quest before duelling gloriously at Epsom.

Sandown is probably the least conservative of Britain's tracks. This may explain why it has been voted the leading course for the last five years.

The Eclipse Stakes, which was named after the greatest horse of his time, was first run in 1886 and was England's first £10,000 race. In addition, Sandown pioneered televised racing. In 1939 the BBC suggested

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

they should screen the Eclipse and offered a facility fee of £15. This did not appeal. But, in the 1947-48 season, two chases and a hurdle race were televised.

In 1957 though came the big one. The Whitbread Gold Cup, a handicap chase, became Britain's first sponsored horse-race. Traditionalists were sent spinning in their mausoleums.

The contest, which gets its 43rd airing on Saturday, has become a contest of screaming excitement. There are several

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Warm Spoil (Chapman 3.40)  
NB: Test The Water (Pontefract 4.20)

components which have helped. Sandown possesses the railway fences, which are so close to each other that it is said that the great Tingle Creek used to take just seven strides between each. The Pond fence is a unique obstacle at which fortunes can change wildly, and there is the uphill finish which brings back front-runners to a bounding pack.

The greatest of great finishes occurred 15 years ago this weekend. That was the year Lettich lost 20 lengths when tangled in a fallen horse at the third fence, but still got back to challenge on the run-in. Also in the final desperate battle was Diamond Edge, providing Bill Smith with the last ride of his career. He would have been the oldest winner of the race at 13.

and the only horse to win it three times. Last to challenge in the tumultuous run to line was Special Cargo, the property of the Queen Mother. It was he who succeeded, from Lettich and Diamond Edge, the short-heads between them so narrow the three could have been joined by thread through the bridle.

The winning roll call is of legends. The Whitbread has been won by Ardie, Mill House and Desert Orchid, and when the first named won in 1965 he was carrying 12st 7lbs and conceding between two and a half and three stones to his six rivals. He dragged a safe round behind him and still won.

Mill House was ridden in his 1967 victory year by David Nicholson, who, last season, joined Stan Mellor and Josh Gifford as jockeys and trainers to win the Whitbread after the success of Call It A Day.

The Duke parted that night and he has not exactly put himself in a hermitage since. But the recollection of Mill House remains vivid. "I'll never forget that day," he said yesterday. "I'd ridden Mill House in the Gold Cup and Fulke Walwyn had done a tremendous job to get him to Sandown in the condition he was in."

"Halfway round the final turn John Buckingham came back upides me on Royal Relief. I said to him 'steady John you've won' and with that I kicked. And I got home."

"The horse pulled up absolutely out on his feet, basically unconscious. But when the crowd started clapping him all the way up the Rhododendron

Walk I could feel him coming back to life. He walked into that winners' enclosure to the best reception I've ever heard of at a National Hunt course. He was the king of England, so proud."

The Duke may be proud himself again this weekend when he has Gold Ballistic and Baronet in the big race. A field of 22 was declared yesterday on going that is currently good, with good to firm patches. The one they might have to beat though is Robbijo, the Grand National winner who can collect a £50,000 bonus if he can take this signature contest as well.

Robbijo is attempting to emulate the 1990 winner, Mr Frisk, who is the only horse to complete the double in the same season. "He's in very good form and the National hasn't taken very much out of him," Tommy Carberry, his trainer, said yesterday.

Saturday's card however is destined to take a lot out of that watch. It's that sort of day.



Robbijo attempts to follow up his Grand National win

## Williamson just avoids prison

NORMAN WILLIAMSON was told by magistrates yesterday that he had avoided going to prison by a whisker when he was sentenced for drink-driving. A court in Gloucester sentenced the jockey to 100 hours' community service and banned him from driving for three years after he admitted driving at more than three times the legal limit.

The chairman of the bench, Clive Thomson said: "You have just missed custody by a

whisker and you must be certain when you get your licence back it doesn't happen again."

Williamson was stopped by police on the A17 near Gloucester on Valentine's Day. The court heard he had been drinking in a pub near his house after missing out on riding Decoupage to victory in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury the previous day due to injury.

Robin Leach, defending, said that Williamson had not intended to drive but returned

home to find a message from the trainer Venetia Williams asking him to ride out at her Herefordshire stables early the next morning.

He decided to make the 90 mile journey to Herefordshire in his luxury Lexus car but was stopped at 10pm.

Mr Leach told the court that Williamson had no previous convictions for drink-driving and produced a letter to the magistrates from Williams testifying to his good character.

WHITBREAD GOLD CUP H'CAP CHASE (3m 5f 110yd)									
	C	N	L	S	T				
1-190 GENERAL WOLFE (14) Miss V Williams 10st 10lb	12-1	12-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
3-222 GO BALLISTIC (16) D Nicholson 10st 10lb	12-1	12-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
4-200 SENIOR EL BETTRITTI (27) C Mrs S Moxley 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
5-144 CYBORG (14) M Phipps 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
6-200 BOSS DOYLE (7) M Morris 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
1-191 BARONET (14) C D Nicholson 10st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-200 COURT MELODY (28) C (B) P Nichols 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
10-200 STRATH ROYAL (19) D Brennan 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
10-200 NANTHOLD (14) Mrs J Phipps 10st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
3-222 CALIBRE HAY (7) C D Nicholson 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
3-222 JOKER (19) M Phipps 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
10-200 MANAGER (15) M Treharne 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
10-200 COLONEL IN CHIEF (28) P Nichols 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
2-144 FINE THYNE (28) Mrs A Phipps 10st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-200 THE OUTBACK WAY (15) Mrs V Williams 10st 10lb	12-1	12-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-200 BETTYS BOY (28) C D Nicholson 10st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-200 BOBBY (14) D T Carbery 10st 10lb	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1				
10-200 THE LAST FLING (16) Mrs S Smith 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
10-200 ELODY (28) C D Nicholson 10st 10lb	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1	14-1				
10-200 MAJOR BELL (19) A Williams 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
2-144 CARBOO GOLD (14) C D Nicholson 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				
10-200 MENSCHON (28) P Nicholls 10st 10lb	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1				

2,000 GUINEAS STAKES (1m)									
	C	N	L	S	T				
1-101 COMMANDER COLLINS P Chapple-Hyam 5st 10lb	5-1	5-1	4-1	4-1	4-1				
10-111 EMBQUE H Cool 5st 10lb	5-1	5-1	4-1	4-1	4-1				
4-101 AUCTION HOUSE B Hills 5st 10lb	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-1	7-1				
1-101 ORPEN A P O'Brien 5st 10lb	7-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	6-1				
10-111 MAHARAJ D Murphy 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 STRAWBERRY A P O'Brien 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 COMPTON ADMIRAL G Butler 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
1-101 ISLAND BANGS S Good 5st 10lb	7-1	7-1	6-1	6-1	6-1				
1-101 BALLET MASTER H Cool 5st 10lb	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	12-1				

1,000 GUINEAS STAKES (1m)									
	C	N	L	S	T				
1-101 MOHAWK Mrs C Head 5st 10lb	9-1	9-1	8-1	8-1	8-1				
10-111 ETZAZA S Good 5st 10lb	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-1	7-1				
10-111 SUNSHINE A P O'Brien 5st 10lb	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-1	7-1				
10-111 BLUE CLOUD A Farnham 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 CALANDO S Good 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
1-101 MOTHER OF PEARL P Chapple-Hyam 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 VALENTINE WATZ J Good 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 WINCE H Cool 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
1-101 ZAHARA DUBAI S Good 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 IMPERIAL BEAUTY P Males 5st 10lb	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				

NOTTINGHAM									
	C	N	L	S	T				
1-101 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
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10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
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10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				

NOTTINGHAM									
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10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
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10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
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NOTTINGHAM									
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10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 FORTY FIVE (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				
10-111 THE WHISTLING TEAL (P Spruce)	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10-1				</







# Wise escapes punishment by Uefa

DENNIS WISE was cleared yesterday by Uefa over his alleged bite on the Real Mallorca defender Elena Marcelino.

The Chelsea captain escaped punishment from European football's governing body after tugging the centre-back in the first leg of the European Cup-Winners' Cup semi-final at Stamford Bridge on 8 April.

Wise could have been fined or banned, but Uefa said in a statement: "Although the player's unsporting gesture warrants clear disapproval, there is no legal basis in Uefa's disciplinary regulations for imposing a sanction."

BY ALAN NIXON

disciplinary regulations for imposing a sanction."

Wise has been sent off four times since August and another suspension would have ruled him out of Thursday's tie, and possibly the final, were Chelsea to qualify. The first leg ended in a 1-1 draw.

Although Marcelino and Real Mallorca made no official complaint and the match officials and observers did not miss the incident, Uefa felt the episode was serious enough to hold a disciplinary hearing.

Its statement said: "Uefa's control and disciplinary body has decided to dismiss the case regarding a possible suspension for Dennis Wise."

"In accordance with current Uefa disciplinary regulations, sanctions can be imposed for incidents of misconduct not seen by the referee, only if such conduct corresponds to gross unsportsmanship. The incident must be so serious that failing to punish it would contradict general legal opinion."

After the match, Marcelino said: "He caught me with his hand and tried to provoke me

and maybe get me sent off. I had to be very calm and quiet but someone has told me that he also tried to bite me. It is certainly not common, but I didn't feel anything."

The Roma forward Marco Delvecchio said yesterday that he had discussed the prospect of moving to Chelsea with the Stamford Bridge club's player-manager, Gianluca Vialli.

"Chelsea? It's true, it could be a likely destination for next season. A few days ago I talked about it with Vialli," Delvecchio declared. "The English idea is an adventure which attracts me

— London is beautiful and they tell me Chelsea is a lovely area," he added.

Alex Ferguson has still not given up hope of Ryan Giggs declaring himself fit to face Juventus in tomorrow's Champions' League semi-final, second leg in Turin.

The Manchester United manager has had an anxious week since Giggs left Villa Park on crutches after scoring the much-celebrated goal against Arsenal last Wednesday which took his side through to the FA Cup final. Since then the Welshman has undergone intense

treatment on his badly bruised ankle.

"He'll travel with us, and we are hoping we can have him training by tomorrow night," Ferguson said. "He's coming on, but it's going to be very close. We are certainly more hopeful about Ryan than we were after last Wednesday's game."

"He is improving a lot, and it's not the kind of injury where there has been any ligament or tendon damage. It is purely the ankle joint, so hopefully the inflammation and swelling will come down enough for him to play."

Giggs is United's only injury worry after goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's recovery from a slight groin strain which forced him to miss Saturday's home win over Sheffield Wednesday.

United go into the game knowing Juventus have the advantage of an away goal following the 1-1 draw in the first leg at Old Trafford, but Ferguson says he does not expect the Italians to play for the goalless draw which would be enough to take them through.

"Knowing Juventus, they will try to finish the tie, particularly in the first half an hour,

because that is normally what they try to do," he said. "The important thing for us is to remember that at present it's a draw and, if we can score over there, then it changes the whole thing."

Ferguson is not expected to name his side until shortly before kick-off tomorrow but it is expected that Dwight Yorke will return after being rested from starting the last two games. Teddy Sheringham, Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer are all in contention to partner the Trinidad and Tobago international.

## Graham anger at Hungary friendly

BY BILL PIERCE

THE TOTTENHAM manager, George Graham, has joined the growing band of Premiership managers who believe England should call off next Wednesday's friendly international against Hungary in Budapest.

Graham fears that Kevin Keegan is ready to exclude any players from the top three Championship-chasing clubs when the England coach names his squad for the match on Thursday. "That would be out of order," he said. "How can that be fair on the rest of us? He can't just pull out players because their clubs are in a position to win something."

Benfica confirmed yesterday that they have terminated Graeme Souness's contract as coach. Jupp Heynckes, the German who coached Real Madrid to their first European Cup in 32 years last year, will take over at the end of the season.

Benfica are third in the Portuguese League and in danger of missing out on the European Champions' League next season. With six games to go, they are nine points adrift of leaders Porto and four behind Boavista.

Aston Villa have offered Hapoel Haifa £750,000 for the 25-year-old Israeli international left-back, Najuan Grafe, John Gregory, the Villa manager, also hopes to sign another Israeli, the playmaker Haim Revivo, from the Spanish club Celta Vigo.

Trevor Francis, the Birmingham manager, admitted yesterday that his request for his squad to donate £400 per man to a charity providing aid to Kosovo refugees had not met with unanimous support. Unusually some players led to a team meeting to discuss the matter, but Francis denied that an afternoon training session had been a "punishment" for not backing his gesture.

Newcastle United have reached a deal to buy the Paris St-Germain defender Alain Goma. The 26-year-old centre-back is expected to arrive in the summer in a £2.5m move.

Sunderland have made their first signing as they build a squad to keep them in the Premiership next season. The midfielder Carsten Fredgaard, nicknamed "Lightning" in his native Denmark, signed a four-year contract yesterday after joining for £1.8m from Lyngby.

Derby had two pieces of bad news when they lost their appeal against Russell Houl's three-match ban and Francesco Baliano joined the club's injury list.

Houl was sent off for serious foul play against Nottingham Forest on 10 April and the FA has upheld referee Graham Barber's decision. Baliano could be out for the rest of the season after he aggravated a rib injury in the Forest game.

## Graydon manages to inspire Walsall

A former Aston Villa winger is masterminding an intriguing and unlikely challenge for promotion to the First Division. By Phil Shaw

VINNIE JONES gave it both barrels. With the funds Kevin Keegan was given, sniped the bruiser-turned-actor, even his old granny could have taken Fulham up. If the Second Division table stays as it is now, with Walsall in the second automatic promotion position, no one will be able to say the same about Ray Graydon.

Whether Mohamed Al Fayed has heard of Graydon, or even of Walsall, is not known. Fulham's multi-millionaire owner may, however, be interested to learn that engaging a high-profile figurehead and throwing money at the transfer market is not the only way to win football matches.

Whereas the part-time England coach has lavished £12m on upgrading the Craven Cottage squad, Graydon has spent a mere £20,000 on one player, Richard Green from Gillingham, since arriving at Bescot Stadium last summer. Yet Walsall need "only" eight points from five games, starting at fourth-placed Preston tonight, to follow Fulham up.

Graydon, careful not to tempt fate, will say only that the modestly supported Midlands outfit have "a good chance of making the play-offs". Even that would represent a remarkable success, especially when one considers the financial muscle of some of their rivals. Apart from Fulham, Manchester City paid £1m for Terry Cooke last week, while Reading's expenditure in

Tommy Burns' first year was nudging £3m.

What makes Walsall's exalted status all the more astonishing is the fact that this is the 51-year-old Bristolian's first managerial post. Moreover, he inherited a team who had just finished 19th and were bracketed with Colchester, Lincoln and Macclesfield as the bookmakers' favourites to go down.

Exactly who is this Graydon, one can almost hear Mr Al Fayed asking, and how has he done it? A winger with Bristol Rovers, Aston Villa and Coventry, he later coached Oxford United, Southampton and Queen's Park Rangers. Between jobs last spring, he helped John Rudge steer Port Vale from seemingly certain relegation to safety.

Graydon was in no hurry to join the sack race, having always placed job satisfaction above ego and ambition. But he knew about Walsall from his friendship with Chris Nicholl, a former manager, and the set-up appealed to him.

The chairman, Jeff Bonser, is a fan of five decades who runs the club on tight business lines which leave the manager under no illusions. "Lots of people would come in here and kick the desk because they didn't have money to spend," Graydon said. "I knew the position and accepted what the chairman told me: that he'd make cash available if he had it. In fact, I've made him £270,000 because I've sold two at £150,000 each."



Ray Graydon (foreground) has members of his Walsall side toeing the line in training at Lilleshall yesterday

David Ashdown

The other aspect that attracted him was the Continental-style division of duties between team manager and general manager. Paul Taylor handles contracts and agents, and has brought sundry Croats, Argentinians and Icelanders to Bescot. Graydon reasoned that Taylor's presence would leave him free to concentrate on coaching, and so it has proved.

Twelve away wins, the joint-best total in the four divisions, offer proof of Graydon's tactical acumen. "We're not unlike Manchester United. If you watch them carefully, they do group and then hit you on the break. We can be under intense pressure and break out to score."

"People advised me to look at my squad and choose what system suited them. I decided against that and went for 4-2-

which we've stuck to fairly rigidly. I've seen some teams go through four formations in one match. I'm sure if you asked them to explain their job, they couldn't do it."

"All our players are clear about their roles — when to cover in front of the back four."

*'I've got our senior players, like Neil Pointon, Adrian Viveash and Andy Rammell, to assume responsibility. They've shown great leadership'*

when to support the front two, etc. Even in six-a-side training games, if they lose the ball they have to regain their shape. The thinking we drum into them is: 'Lost it — where's my position?'

"I don't like standing on the sidelines, shouting at my team or lambasting the referee, so

I've got the senior players, like Neil Pointon, Adrian Viveash and Andy Rammell, to assume responsibility. They've shown great leadership. Rammell scored twice for Southend last season, and he came here asking: 'What can I do to be better?' I said I'd get some crosses for

him and guaranteed he'd score more. He's got 20 now."

Graydon's eye for a player has been as important as his ability to organise and motivate. Another of his seven free-transfer recruits, the 12-goal midfielder Darren Wrack, has been selected in the players' union poll for the divisional team of

the season. "He was tossed aside by Grimsby but it would take a lot of money for us to part now. The honour reflects on the lads around him, because they all pull together."

Discipline is another major plank in Walsall's strategy. Earrings and designer stubble are banned as part of a dress code; mobile phones are not allowed in the dressing-room; there are strict rules about time-keeping, and foul language and foul play are frowned upon. Draconian as it sounds, the players have "responded superbly".

Then there is Graydon's waist disposal programme. "Fitness is absolutely vital, so we assessed their body-fat and gave them a target weight. If they go over it, they have to pay a fine. Chris Marsh, who's been here a long time and always looked a bit heavy, is possibly

having the best season of his life, partly because he's lighter."

Whisper it in the Harrods boardroom, but Walsall's rise shows that coaching and management skills can compete, to a certain extent, with chequebook management. "We're proving that at this club," Graydon said. "I'd like the opportunity to spend some money, but if we get into the First Division I'll do the best I can with what I've got."

It is as close as anyone at Walsall comes to discussing promotion in public. Such talk, if not quite on the banned list, is discouraged, though as Graydon admitted: "We can't help seeing where we are." The run-in, which includes an opportunity to pit his wits against the England coach at Bescot, will tell us whether seeing is believing.

## Brown plays diplomat to avert dispute with clubs

CRAIG BROWN, the Scotland manager, moved to avert a clubs-versus-country dispute last night by promising the managers of the players in his squad to face Germany a week tomorrow that he will return them to the domestic fray in the best possible condition.

Scotland's friendly in Bremen falls days before vital weekend fixtures, including a meeting of Celtic and Rangers which will have a strong bearing on the outcome of the Scottish championship race.

BY PHIL SHAW

The party announced yesterday included six players expected to figure in the Old Firm derby, as well as three from Everton and others from Aberdeen, Dundee United, Hearts and Blackburn, who are all battling against relegation.

"I've told the club coaches I'll use their players sparingly and I hope they'll trust me," Brown said. "Germany don't play friendlies and neither do we.

They seem to be back in form, but we're not going there to be cannon fodder."

Even for a past master in patching up the ranks, the game in the Weserstadion promises an unprecedented test of Brown's powers of improvisation. There are already injury doubts concerning Leeds' David Hopkin, who left Charlton on crutches last Saturday after going over on an ankle, and the Celtic pair Paul Lambert (foot) and Jackie McNamara (knee).

Given the problems Brown is likely to encounter, Gary McAllister's decision to retire from international football after being booed at Celtic Park during the European Championship defeat by the Czech Republic appears all the more untimely.

Soot Gemmill, who scored a fine goal for Everton at Newcastle on Saturday, takes his place.

Brian O'Neill, the former Celtic and Aberdeen centre-back whose only previous cap came against Australia three

years ago, is recalled after some impressive displays for the Bundesliga club VfL Wolfsburg.

Brown admitted that if the match had been a competitive affair he would have picked the Aston Villa veteran, Colin Calderwood, ahead of O'Neill. "I want to use this game to find out about players I don't know enough about," he said. "O'Neill always had great potential — maybe it's taken the discipline instilled by German football to bring it out."

Scotland's desperate shortage of strikers means a first chance for the uncapped Robbie Winters, of Aberdeen. However, Brown's first-choice front two, call-offs permitting, will probably be Billy Dodds, who joined Dundee United in part exchange for the pacy Winters, and Don Hutchison, who won his first cap as substitute against the Czechs.

With just three goals each, Dodds and Craig Burley are joint top scorers in a squad with just 12 international goals between them. The fact that Lothar Matthaus alone has almost twice as many, having scored 22 times in 134 caps, highlights the disparity in resources between Brown and his German counterpart, Erich Ribbeck.

SCOTLAND SQUAD (Friendly v Germany, Bremen, 28 April): Bonser (Dundee); Hogg (St Johnstone); Souttar (Wolves); Brown (Aberdeen); Gemmill (Everton); Winters (Dundee); Hutchison (Aberdeen); Lambert (Celtic); McNamara (Celtic); Dodds (Dundee); Burley (Aberdeen); Johnston (Aberdeen); McCann (Rangers); Winters (Aberdeen).

German squad, Digest, page 25

## Player's decade of drugs

THE CAPTAIN of Berwick Rangers admitted yesterday that he has been playing football with a drug problem for more than a decade.

Martin Neil said he has decided to speak openly about his problem in an attempt to salvage his career. The 29-year-old claims that at no time in his spell with the Scottish Third Division club has he been drug-tested, but wishes he had been. Neil said he has taken amphetamines, LSD and cocaine, and fears his addiction will kill him.

"I have been told that if I play football again under the influence of drugs I could end up having a heart attack on the pitch," he said. "I know I have a problem and I need to get it sorted out. I have let down so many people — my family, my teammates, managers, backroom

staff and directors of the club, but now I want help and want to stop. My lifestyle is out of hand and I fear it could kill me."

Neil once had a brief spell with Dundee United but failed to make the grade and also disappointed in trials for Bolton and Newcastle.

The player said he is unsure how Berwick will react to his revelations in a Scottish newspaper, but emphasised that his priority is placing the problem of drugs in the spotlight.

"Now this is out in the open some of the people at the club might put their arm around me, others might not want to speak with me," he said. "Right now I never want to see another drug in my life. I have even taken drugs in the dressing room 20 minutes before a match. It was a good few years

ago and I paid the price — I started the match on speed and ended it on crutches."

The Scottish Football Association defended its testing procedure yesterday. Its spokesman, Andy Mitchell, said: "It is perfectly possible that a player goes through his entire career without undergoing a drugs test because of the random nature of testing."

"But the testing we have in place is long-established and has been run in conjunction with the Scottish Sports Council for the past 16 years, carried out on a random basis through the season through all the divisions."

"It is the same process as Uefa and Fifa adopt at their matches, and we take care to ensure the surprise element is maintained with the observer always arriving after kick-off."

## Atkinson profits from Arabian adventure

SAUDI ARABIA

DALIAN ATKINSON is ready to end his self-imposed exile in Saudi Arabia and return to Europe — but says his time in the Middle East may well have saved his career.

The former Ipswich Town, Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday striker helped his Jeddah-based club, Al-Ittihad, win the Asian Cup-Winners' Cup by beating South Korea's Chunnam Dragons 3-2 in the final in Tokyo on Sunday. He then said he wanted to return to Europe when his eight-month contract expires at the end of the season.

Atkinson, 31, joined the Saudi club on the recommendation of the former Liverpool and Tottenham striker, Ronny Rosenthal, after relations with

his previous club, Turkey's Fenerbahce, turned sour.

"I only played about 10 times in two years," Atkinson said of his time in Turkey. "They refused to pay money that was owed to me and I refused to go back to them at the end of my first season." He won his freedom from his contract only by appealing to Fifa, world football's ruling body.

Atkinson has scored 10 goals in his last 11 games for Al-Ittihad. "Saudi's been good for me because there are no bars to go out to," he said. "There are no distractions, I can just train and relax. But I want to go back to Europe. You always think that you might have lost it but I realise that I've still got it and the more I play the better I will get. I've just turned 31 so I'm not an old man."

club nine points clear at the top of the table with just eight games to play.

That commanding lead has left several Barcelona players in celebratory mood. "The league is practically decided," Frank de Boer said after the victory over Mallorca. His fellow Dutch international, Michael Reiziger, said: "We'll be champions with three or four games to spare."

However, Guardiola, in his ninth season with the club, told his colleagues to guard against complacency. "My team-mates are making a mistake," he said. "They don't know what happens when you lose two successive games and the doubts start to set in. Strange things happen in the league. We're still not champions and we have to keep on working."

Barcelona's 2-1 victory over Real Mallorca on Saturday, followed by a draw for Celta Vigo and a defeat for Valencia on Sunday, left the Catalan

club nine points clear at the top of the table with just eight games to play.

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NETHERLANDS

THE MAYOR of Kerkrade has called off tomorrow's Dutch First Division match between Roda JC Kerkrade and the leaders, Feyenoord, because of fears that Feyenoord supporters would cause trouble in his town. The Rotterdam club are just one win away from the title.

Feyenoord have a home game on Sunday against the bottom club, NAC Breda, who have objected to tomorrow's postponement because they feel the leaders will play harder against them with the title still at stake.

GERMANY

ST PAULI, the Hamburg-based Second Division side, have had their professional licence withdrawn for financial reasons.

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## SPORT

WALSALL'S RAY OF LIGHT P24 • TRENT BRIDGE TASKMASTER P21

Football: Former goal hero at Oakwell sacked for failing to mount Premiership promotion challenge

## Barnsley dismiss Hendrie

BY SIMON LANSLEY

JOHN HENDRIE was sacked yesterday after failing to take Barnsley back up into the Premiership at the first time of asking.

Barnsley will make an approach to the Republic of Ireland's coach, Mick McCarthy, to replace Hendrie. The former Barnsley player may be willing to take on both jobs, although Barnsley would rather make a full-time appointment.

Dave Bassett and Nigel Spackman are also tipped to be interviewed for the post although Ronnie Glavin, a local favourite who had FA Cup success with Emley, is also in the running. Kevin Richardson is also admired within the club, although they may want a more experienced candidate following the failure of Hendrie to make the successful transition from player to manager.

## THE CAREER OF JOHN HENDRIE

1963: Born Lennoxtown, 24 October  
1981: Began playing career at Coventry  
1984: Joined Bradford  
1988: Transferred to Newcastle  
1989: Joined Leeds  
1990: Signed for Barnsley  
1991: With Hendrie leading the way, Barnsley won promotion to top flight  
1993: Hendrie succeeds Danny Wilson as manager following Barnsley's relegation to First Division  
1995: Barnsley fail to mount a sustained push for promotion. Hendrie is dismissed after less than 10 months in charge.

Hendrie replaced Danny Wilson last summer following his departure to Sheffield Wednesday but the Scot was unable to lift Barnsley above mid-table, with the highlight of the campaign a place in the quarter-finals of the FA Cup. They are lying 16th in the First Division.

Hendrie, who scored 16 goals as the Yorkshire club were promoted to the top flight for the first time in their history two years ago, said his dismissal did not shock him.

"I just came in for a normal day's training with the players, then went to see the chairman this afternoon because he said he wanted to see me," Hendrie said. "He pulled me in and just told me that it wasn't working out and relieved me of my duties. It was as quick as that."

"I live in the real world. Nothing in this game shocks me and I would just like to thank everyone at Barnsley who has supported me. I've had two



John Hendrie had 'worked very hard' for the club, according to Barnsley's chairman, John Dennis, who said his departure was 'a very sad day for a great guy' *Empics*

and a half really good years there, with a lot of ups and a few downs."

Eric Winstanley has been appointed Barnsley's caretaker manager, with Peter Shirliff his assistant while the club searches for a replacement.

The club's chairman, John Dennis, said: "It's important that the rest of the backroom staff focus on a big game for us on Saturday at Huddersfield."

Hopefully we will put on a good performance.

"Obviously our results have been disappointing and our league placing is disappointing so we thought it was time for a change. Each individual board member is a strong personality and has his own view but we came to the conclusion that it was time to act."

He added: "Unfortunately it's not worked out for John, he

worked very hard at the job but things don't seem to have been right. It's a very sad day for a great guy, he was a hero for Barnsley when the team got promotion. His goals were instrumental in getting us promoted."

Barnsley made a slow start to the campaign as they tried to adjust to life back in the Nationwide League and the sale of Ashley Ward for £4.5m was a setback to their promotion hopes.

Hendrie, 35, whose last match in charge was Friday's 3-1 defeat by the First Division champions-elect, Sunderland, joined Barnsley as a player in October 1996 and led their attack as they gained automatic promotion to the Premiership behind Bolton.

But the following season ended in relegation and after Wilson moved on, Hendrie - who also played for Coventry,

Hereford, Bradford, Newcastle, Leeds and Middlesbrough - was appointed as player-manager at Oakwell on 6 July.

However, with Barnsley out of the running for promotion and also safe from relegation, the board decided to dispense with his services.

The club issued a statement, saying: "The directors of Barnsley Football Club wish to announce that the contract of

manager John Hendrie has been terminated."

"The board wish to place on record their thanks to John for his efforts in his two and a half years and particularly those as a player in the 1996-97 season."

"The search for a new manager starts immediately and in the interim Eric Winstanley has been placed in temporary charge."

## Fowler's nose may frustrate Keegan

BY STEVEN BAKER

KEVIN KEEGAN should know by tomorrow whether Robbie Fowler will be available for selection for England's friendly international in Hungary next week.

Fowler's club, Liverpool, yesterday confirmed that the striker, who is suspended for the rest of the Premiership season because of a set-to involving Graeme Le Saux of Chelsea last month and some controversial line-sniffing celebrations in front of Everton fans at the Merseyside derby more recently, suffered a broken nose during a scuffle in the toilets of a Liverpool hotel early on Sunday morning.

Now the England coach Keegan, who is thought to be keen to name Fowler in the squad, must wait to see if the 24-year-old will be fit enough to travel to Budapest, although the striker seems likely to declare himself ready for action.

A Liverpool spokesman said: "He has seen medical staff and it has been confirmed that he has suffered a broken nose in the assault."

"We will have a clearer idea in the next couple of days what that means for treatment."

A spokesman for the Football Association, Steve Double, earlier said: "Obviously with every player who has the potential for England selection, we check around the time of selection if they are available."

"I would have thought that is the case with Fowler. We will be relying on the club's guidance."

If fit, Fowler could expect to play a key role in Budapest, with his club-mate Michael Owen and Blackburn's Chris Sutton both injured.

The incident, which occurred at Liverpool's Most House Hotel, is the latest episode in a traumatic month for Fowler, following his much-publicised fine and six-match suspension as a result of the two cases of indiscipline.

Merseyside Police named the man charged with assaulting Fowler as 41-year-old Paul McCarthy, from Ellison Towers, in the Everton area of the city.

He has been bailed to appear before Liverpool City Magistrates' Court on 25 May.

## 'Bribery' claim upsets England

BY GLENN MOORE

FOOTBALL POLITICS is a dirty game so it was easy to be cynical about yesterday's announcement by the Football Association that it will invite nearly 2,500 children to "enjoy the World Cup experience".

Should England's bid for the 2006 tournament succeed, "A glorified bribe" was the general consensus of the press and it is a view which will be echoed in foreign parts, perhaps too many for the bid's comfort.

There was also a bitter irony in the realisation that Tony Blair had broken off from launching air strikes on Serbia to invite a dozen Yugoslavian children to England. Despite the conflict in the Balkans, Yugoslavia remain one of the 203 FIFA members and were thus included in the invite.

While this is potentially embarrassing, especially if Belgrade makes political capital from it, the conflict will surely be resolved well before 2006. With that in mind, the invite could actually justify Sir Bobby Charlton's comment that football can bring people together.

Sir Bobby, unfortunately, was less circumspect in dealing with a mischievous question asked by a German journalist. "Had the fighting and the pitch invasion at the end of last week's FA Cup semi-final replay harmed the bid?"

Sir Bobby, who was at Villa Park, said: "If I had found a route down to the pitch I'd have gone down there and joined them." This faux pas was compounded by Tony Banks, the sports minister. No stranger to gaffes, he first claimed, incorrectly,

that there was no fighting, then added: "They were celebrating. They came on to the pitch to cheer off their heroes. What would you have done?"

The comments came as the FA begins an inquiry into the pitch invasion which followed Manchester United's victory. While it is true that most fans were celebratory, there were several scuffles involving fans and stewards. The United fans were later heavily criticised by Villa Park's safety officer.

Sir Bobby, a Manchester United director, added: "It was euphoria that spilled over but if the FA want to fine Manchester United we'll have to accept it. We don't want people on the field."

The identity of the questioner, and that of the next one - a South African who asked if given the emphasis on "Fair Play" during a promotional video, was it "not fair play" that Africa should have a turn at staging a World Cup - underlined that the campaign is intensifying. The decision is to be made by FIFA in 11 months time and the FA, while it clearly has the slickest campaign, is aware that South Africa have the emotional pull and the support of Sepp Blatter, the president of FIFA, and Germany have more influence in the corridors of power.

Thus yesterday's launch of "England's Welcome to the World: An invitation to the youth of the world." The Westminster press conference was accompanied by a photocall

with the Prime Minister and a dozen multi-ethnic children from Wansstead in the garden at Downing Street. Foreign press were particularly welcome.

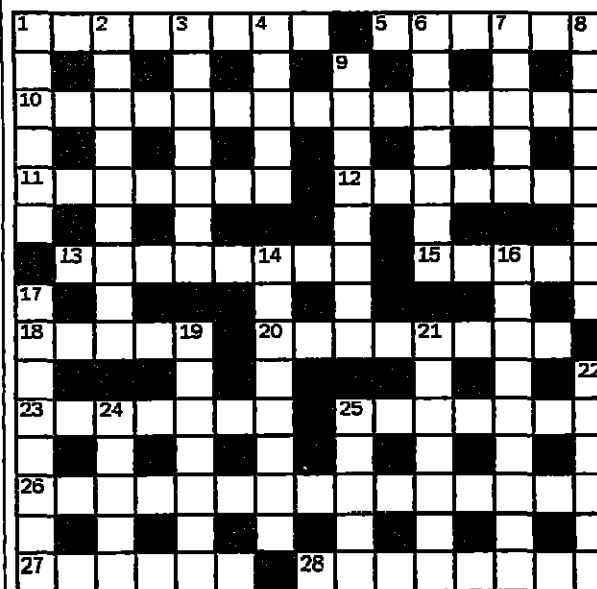
It was easy to be cynical, especially when Alex McQueen, the campaign director, subtly pin-pointed England's rivals' perceived weaknesses in his address. England, he said, had "100 per cent government backing, was a safe country to travel in, and has sophisticated high-tech hotels and infrastructure." These comments referred, in turn, to the bids from Germany, South Africa, and the rest (Ghana, Nigeria, Morocco and Brazil).

No wonder we were cynical. But think for a moment of the impact the invitation could have for nearly 2,500 children, most from countries so poor that very few people travel abroad for anything. These children will not only have their air fares met and accommodation provided (with host families), they would also attend two World Cup matches and be coached by famous names.

While Sir Bobby spoke well of the opportunities the invitation offered, three years of campaigning have educated him in the black arts and, for those whose vote would not be secured by the FA's generosity, he played a different card. The scheme can be afforded, said Sir Bobby, because with the stadiums already built "England will make a lot of money from the World Cup." A pause and he added: "Fifa will make a lot of money from the World Cup."

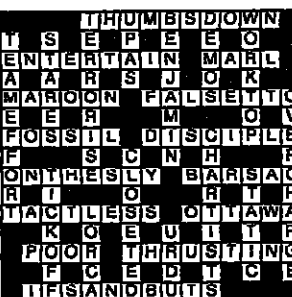
## THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3901 Tuesday 20 April by Aelred



- ACROSS**
- Out of army removed effect of attack by crowd? (8)
  - I like Conservative involved in Foreign Office debacle (6)
  - Judge Anne Plessanter basking in an oriental light? (8,7)
  - About to marry again, perform funeral rites (7)
  - Traitor beset by hesitations requiring correction (7)
  - Lacklustre doctor with nothing to enhance him gets about (8)
  - Tabloid features attractive quality in woman (5)
  - Out-of-condition fellow in group of soldiers (5)
  - One taken round South African province just
- DOWN**
- Notes 100 in plane cast down (6)
  - Female pal could be one highly thought of in Canada (5,4)
  - Foreigner for Belgium? (7)
  - Follow directions to take legal action (5)
  - Interior drains specially
  - Discarding leaf I go for lots of leaves (7)
  - A New York item potentially to be had whenever you like (7)
  - Like NCO maybe, not working? (3,2,10)
  - More than twice reduced the staple food (6)
  - Divorce with hint about day daughter's shut out (8)
  - Indicate powerless people with time for pomade (8)
  - Change, for example, old intimate friend (5,3)
  - One brings before king business involving foreign envoy (8)
  - Worried about poem one treated roughly (9)
  - Vessel offering fab tours, perhaps? (8)
  - Channel Islands fellows with craft that shows up-turn in trade (7)
  - One with girl coming up from the depths (7)
  - Having marks of love in editorial (6)
  - Sides taking high tea afterwards (5)
  - Heterogeneous juxtaposition 9 years into this millennium? (5)

Monday's Solution



constructed to keep new

7 Unpleasant moisture situated around the two of us (5)

8 Indicate powerless people with time for pomade (8)

9 Change, for example, old intimate friend (5,3)

14 One brings before king business involving foreign envoy (8)

16 Worried about poem one treated roughly (9)

17 Vessel offering fab tours, perhaps? (8)

19 Channel Islands fellows with craft that shows up-turn in trade (7)

21 One with girl coming up from the depths (7)

22 Having marks of love in editorial (6)

24 Sides taking high tea afterwards (5)

25 Heterogeneous juxtaposition 9 years into this millennium? (5)



# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • PLUS THE INFORMATION DAILY



It was not news to his constituents in Hartlepool or his colleagues in Westminster. So when Matthew Parris was provoked by Jeremy Paxman to 'out' Peter Mandelson on TV, he could have let the whole affair blow over. But, as this exclusive extract from Donald Macintyre's biography reveals, this underestimates the ferocity with which the man guards his personal relationships and his private life

## The truth was 'out'. And so were the knives

**P**eter Mandelson actually saw himself being outed on *Newsnight* on the evening of 27 October. He was reclining on his bed at Northumberland Place, going through a red box with the television set on, as Matthew Parris, *The Times* sketch writer, ex-MP and openly gay, was interviewed by Jeremy Paxman about the personal crisis that had caused Ron Davies to resign as Welsh Secretary that very day. Matthew Parris told Paxman: "There are at least two gay members of the Cabinet." Paxman, appearing to search his memory for whom Parris might mean, asked: "Are there two gay members of the Cabinet?" Parris replied: "Well, Chris Smith is openly gay and I think Peter Mandelson is certainly gay." At which point Paxman, looking a touch flustered, said: "I think we will just move on from there. I'm not quite sure where he is on that."

Remarkably, Mandelson was to say later that at first he simply returned to his box and carried on working. This had happened several times before, after all. But by the time Benjamin Wegg-Prosser arrived 20 minutes later from a nearby restaurant, his pager was filling up with messages from the newscasters of every national newspaper. It was an old story, but Mandelson was now a cabinet minister, and the man doing the outing was famous in his own right.

Someone less single-mindedly determined to protect his privacy might have given up at that point. It was widely known in Hartlepool, as well as throughout the Westminster village, that Mandelson was gay. Indeed, he had never made any attempt to conceal it from those who knew him. Would it not be a relief to let the tidal wave of publicity roll over him? This was, after all, the Nineties, not the Fifties. But that was not how Mandelson saw it. At around 10am Wegg-Prosser took the first of many calls from a senior BBC executive, Richard Clemenow. Could he speak to Mandelson? No, he couldn't. Well, said Clemenow, please pass on to Peter that Paxman was very upset about what had happened and would shortly be biling round a letter of apology. In fact, Paxman delivered the letter himself, making a detour on his way to work at BBC Television Centre to drop it off at Northumberland Place.

Dear Peter, (the letter read), I'm sorry that Matthew Parris mentioned your name on *Newsnight* last night. In the heat of the moment, he rather caught me out, and I tried to brush over things as soon as possible afterwards.

I fully respect - and share - your view that your private life is your own affair. I am sorry if I have been the cause of your embarrassment. With kind regards, Jeremy Paxman

This fairly unequivocal apology did little to mollify Mandelson. For one thing, he believed, rightly or wrongly, that Paxman - a friend, if not a close one - knew he was gay and who he had been going out with. In any case, before he had even returned home to read the letter Mandelson had already gone straight to the top. He telephoned Sir Christopher Bland, the chairman of the BBC governors, and suggested that he acquaint himself with the facts.

He also - contrary to subsequent denials - telephoned Birt, also to protest. That evening, having returned home and read Paxman's letter, he wrote a reply, unforgiving even by the standard of scores of similar letters he had sent to journalists over the years.



him on until his remarks became indefensible. If I didn't know better, I would think it was all accidental. But I know how thoroughly *'Newsnight'* thinks about its output and interviews, and I know what licence it gives itself in producing and demonising its pet hates. I have been one of these for too long. Yours, Peter

I do not want a correspondence, so please do not bother to reply.

At this point, Paxman, feeling that Mandelson's hint about a *Newsnight* witch hunt was out of order, wrote back a robust but amiable 'come off it' sort of letter to tell him so. Paxman's bosses, however, were more respectful. By this time, the Labour MP Diane Abbott, an old sparring partner of Mandelson's, referred at some length to Mandelson's homosexuality on *Question Time*. Sir Christopher, writing to Mandelson the following morning, was contrition itself.

Thank you for your telephone call on Wednesday, arising from the previous night's edition of *'Newsnight'*. I have now looked into the matter. It was clearly inappropriate for a studio guest to have taken the opportunity to comment on your private life. I can assure you that neither the programme nor Jeremy Paxman intended this to happen and we very much regret that it did. The fact that a contributor to *'Question Time'* repeated the allegation last night compounds our error. I can only apologise sincerely on behalf of the BBC both for the original mistake and for the widespread press coverage that has resulted. Yours sincerely, Christopher

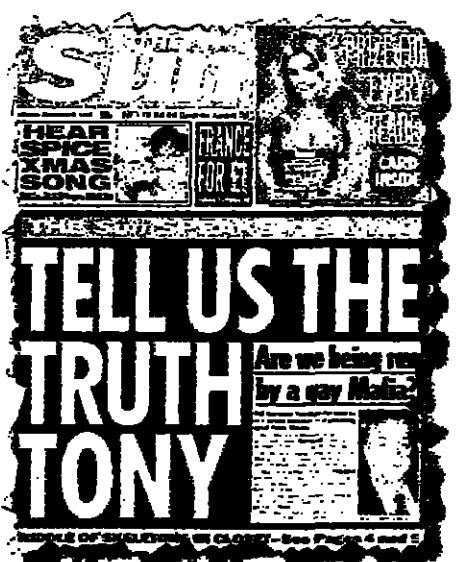
After an instant poll of 100 constituents, the Hartlepool Mail, under a headline that screamed: WHO CARES IF OUR MP IS GAY?, reported that 94 had decided that it didn't matter. But the national newspapers were not going to be put off. The *Sunday Express* was on the track of Reinaldo Avila da Silva, as Mandelson had learnt in a telephone call from his friend in Tokyo. Avila had been in a steady relationship with Mandelson, frequently staying at Northumberland Place, from March until he went to Tokyo to study Japanese in the autumn. The *Sunday Express* did not know this. But they knew enough to consider it worthwhile sending the reporter John Chapman - by coincidence the very same journalist who had 'exposed' Mandelson's relationship with Peter Ashby 11 years earlier, in the middle of the 1987 election - to Tokyo to talk to him.

What happened next was disputed. Amanda Plattell, now director of communications at Conservative Central Office, was moved from the editorship of the paper in January. A senior *Express* executive vehemently denied that Mandelson had made any request for her sacking, and is adamant that Plattell had anyway been moved because the *Sunday Express* had failed to fulfil management hopes for the newspaper. It was true that her case was not helped when an internal investigation following the publication of the story established that the pictures of the Brazilian had been taken against his will. Moreover, the internal enquiry found that the shots of Avila with his hand in front of his face had all been expunged from the paper's computer system. But there is no evidence to support the common assumption that Plattell's head was somehow handed to Mandelson on a platter - well after he had resigned.



The morning after the 'Newsnight' before, Mandelson leaves his home

Michael Crabtree



Brazilian student who is Mandelson's close friend

The 'outing' of Mandelson by Matthew Parris (top) and Jeremy Paxman led to screaming headlines in *'The Sun'* and the revelation of the identity of Mandelson's 'close friend' in the *'Sunday Express'* (above)

Dear Jeremy, Thank you for your letter, which frankly I found perfunctory considering what you did to my night and day, with help from Matthew. Journalists at my door, until the early hours, photographers in the garden, and chasing me all day.

If you were not looking for a cheap angle for your interview, you behaved very unprofessionally. Anyone could see where Matthew was going in his remarks. You had more than one chance to stop him and head him off, you egged

The whole saga nevertheless raised a puzzling question. Why was Mandelson quite so determined not to acknowledge what had by now become public property, from Hartlepool to New York? There was no doubt an element of cussed pride about it. He saw no reason why his private life should become public property, even though by not declaring his sexuality he was probably triggering even more coverage. In retrospect, he was more justified in this view than he seemed to many people at the time. Was he not entitled to maintain his privacy? He insisted angrily to one journalist pressing him to come out publicly that it was a "metropolitan, liberal middle-class obsession" that didn't "matter a damn to people in Hartlepool". In this he was almost certainly right. It is odd how irrelevant in retrospect the subject, which had become a press obsession in early December, now seems.

He was also anxious to protect Reinaldo Avila da Silva from intrusive publicity. Avila, whose family live in a middle class suburb of Rio, is highly intelligent and multilingual and has a strong personality, with a drive for academic qualifications. Whether the relationship proves permanent or not, Mandelson has never spoken about it, and may never do so. But his relationship with Avila was the most serious he had had since he shared a house with Peter Ashby, first in Clapham Manor Street and then in Prince George Road, Hackney, in the early Eighties.

When Peter Mandelson started work as Director of Communications for Labour, he had been sharing a house for more than three years in Clapham Manor Street, south London, with Pete Ashby and Sue Robertson, who became Dr David Owen's spokesman at the SDP. His relationship with Ashby, a gentle, outgoing man who worked in the TUC Education Department and had been active in student politics, was the most important of his adult life. Lean, handsome, and with hardly an enemy in the world, Ashby had been to Latymer Upper School, where he was head boy, and Warwick University. He was bisexual; when they met, Mandelson was working at the TUC while Ashby was deputy president of the National Union of Students. They had overlapped briefly at the TUC when Ashby joined the Education Department at Congress House.

For most of this period, life in the house in

Continued on page 8

### Kosova children appeal to Independent readers

Thousands of Kosovar refugee children now face death from hunger, cold and disease. Most are in deep shock. Many have witnessed their parents and relatives killed in the awful atrocities from which they fled. Albania, the poorest country in Europe, cannot support this massive influx of refugees.

#### Your action will save children who have lost everything

The European Children's Trust needs your swift response to expand our emergency centre in northern Albania to help thousands of refugees. Our team has been working with displaced Kosovar families since this tragedy began. We are ready to provide food, medical aid and clothing to the confused and frightened children who arrive daily.

These are children and families whose homes have been lost, perhaps forever. Special help is needed for the traumatised children who have witnessed terrible crimes, and must now start to live a normal life.

**£30 could buy emergency medicine and food for 5 Kosovar refugee children for a week.**

Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KEK359, 64c Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Please send what you can to save the displaced Kosovar children. Call 0800 056 3686 now or cut the coupon below

I enclose £30.00 my choice £\_\_\_\_\_ to save Kosovar children. (Cheques to The European Children's Trust please.)

Or debit my Access/Visa/CAF card:

Card no \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone no \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Don McCready, (116), Kosovo Emergency Appeal, The European Children's Trust, FREEPOST KEK359, 64c Queen Street, London, EC4B 4AR.

Or call 0800 056 3686 NOW.

Please act NOW - your gift will save lives

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						<b>MEDIA</b>



## Kosovo: cutting through the cant

Sir: I have been consistently impressed by the standard of Robert Fisk's reporting of the Kosovo hostilities and conscious that he is a war reporter of the highest calibre.

His front-page article of 17 April moved me to anger and to tears. It also demonstrated Mr Fisk's integrity and humanity. I have never read a more powerful report.

Amidst all the fudging, half-truths, misinformation, evasions, pretence and outright lies, Robert Fisk has consistently shone the spotlight of reality. This latest report should make those who are trying to cover up the truth squirm. Hopefully, some of the bereaved and injured will now be able to be told what really happened.

Ms VAL PARGETER  
Stourbridge,  
West Midlands

Sir: Robert Fisk appears unwilling to distinguish between the savage slaughter deliberately inflicted by the Serbs and the accidental suffering caused by Nato. He contents himself with perfunctory mention of Serb atrocities while dwelling in great and grisly detail on victims of unintended Nato action. Did I imagine it or was his penultimate paragraph in Saturday's contribution implying, however faintly, that a Nato pilot might have killed civilians on purpose?

Fisk might argue that (a) he doesn't get to see Serb atrocities and (b) he is under tight censorship. But other Western correspondents in Serbia do a far more balanced job. So why is Fisk allowed full rein? I believe his writing (I won't call it reporting) is a disgrace to himself and to *The Independent*.

PATRICK MASSEY  
Orpington, Kent

Sir: To give the whole of your front page on Saturday to Robert Fisk was inspired. With his observer's eye and total clarity and honesty he cuts through the cant and hypocrisy of every situation he surveys.

Thank God for Robert Fisk. In him we have one of the truly great independent journalists and reporters of history who restores real honour and pride to the all too often bland and superficial "free press".

CHARLES HARVEY  
SUZI HARVEY  
Frome,  
Somerset

Sir: War is bad enough but I feel I can take no more heart-on-sleeve melodrama from Robert Fisk with his irritating picture by-lined "reports" from Belgrade.

He led the paper on Friday (16 April) with his "horror story" from the roadside where lay the bodies of those killed by bombs from a Nato aircraft. This, as Nato has admitted, was a dreadful accident and not, as Fisk contends, an atrocity.

Rape and the whole grisly business of ethnic cleansing, these are atrocities and they are perpetrated by Serbs on the ground, not by Nato from the air.

All war is terrible. Every death is a tragedy. Fisk's award-winning descriptive writing makes great play with his emotive detail. He cannot resist the poetry. But a corpse with no head is still a man killed in an awful accident. He is no more and no less dead than a child killed in a road accident and the tragedy for the bereaved is neither more nor less.

STEWART KNOWLES  
Fleet, Hampshire

Sir: One can only say, after reading Robert Fisk's report from Kosovo which you carry on the front page (17 April), that you are now without question the finest newspaper in Britain.

And Robert Fisk's piece will deservedly pass into the history of the very best and bravest of reports on war and its realities. May we hope that it will be shown

to school-children and students in the future as a record of the madness that still afflicted the human race as late as the closing weeks of the 20th century?

IAN FLINTOFF  
London SW6

Sir: Has *The Independent* abandoned being a newspaper to become an outlet for anti-Nato prejudice? Your 17 April front page is a disgrace.

As a subjective, unbalanced piece of polemic Robert Fisk's article might have a place in the Review section. But objective, analytical news reporting it absolutely is not.

The convoy bombing accident was utterly tragic. But such accidents are almost inevitable in any war, even one as "just" as that which Nato is pursuing. By contrast the evil violence Serbia is pursuing is far from accidental; it is planned, deliberate. Robert Fisk seems unable to make the distinction.

P MITCHELL  
London SW19

## How the war began

Sir: Hugh Gleaves's tirade against "fascist" Croatia (letter, 16 April) requires a reply: it perpetuates myths manipulated by Belgrade's propaganda machine which have done so much to prolong this war.

The war did not begin with Nato's present campaign. It began more than a decade ago precisely in Kosovo, when Milosevic manipulated Serb nationalism to climb to power in Belgrade and crush Kosovan autonomy. That initiated the break-up of Yugoslavia, for none of the other nationalities in it was willing to become subject to Greater Serbia.

Milosevic was unable to crush Slovenia because there was no Serb minority there whose fears he could manipulate and which he could use as a fifth column. The situation was different in Croatia, where there was a substantial Serb minority, comprising a majority in the Krajina region.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Bullfighting School No 2: boys practise the right way to handle their capes in the Plaza de Toros El Batán, on the outskirts of Madrid

David Rose

After their rebellion the Serb leadership had the Croats expelled en masse. This was when ethnic cleansing began: not as a matter of undisciplined atrocities or spontaneous anarchy but an organised instrument of state policy.

When, after the massacre in Srebrenica in 1995, it became clear that Milosevic could not control his own killing machine, the United States, unwilling to do the job itself, gave the green light to Croatia to reoccupy Krajina. The Serb leadership decamped in a matter of hours, long before the Croatian army could reach them, instructing their population to follow after them, which they in their overwhelming majority proceeded to do - remembering perhaps what they had done or had been done in their name to their former Croat neighbours.

Four years further on Milosevic still retains power by manipulating the assemblage of myths and fears, hopes and hatreds which makes up Serb nationalism, and ethnic cleansing remains his instrument of state policy. So long as there is no peace in that part of Europe, either for the Serbs or for their neighbours.

BRUCE YOUNG  
Philosophy Division  
University of Wolverhampton  
Dudley

## End it now

Sir: What is going on here? Nato started this war with three worthy aims: ensuring the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia in order to avoid the certainty of a wider Balkan conflagration should the KLA's goal of independence for Kosovo be achieved; restoring a degree of autonomy to Kosovo, to diminish support for the independence movement; and preventing the flight of refugees that would result from Serbia's prosecution of the war with the KLA.

Unfortunately but predictably, the Nato bombing campaign

unleashed the Serbs to pursue all-out war with the KLA and triggered what is arguably the worst humanitarian crisis in post-war Europe.

The original goals have now been forgotten, and self-preservation and an affirmation of Nato's relevance in the post Cold War era have taken over. A ground victory must be achieved. The KLA has become the instrument of that victory, and Nato has become what it always protested it would not - the KLA air force.

A KLA victory in Kosovo will plunge the Balkans into decades of violence, making the flood of suffering humanity of today seem like a mere trickle. The US will wash its hands of it, and Europe will be left alone to bear the consequences.

This must end before it is too late. We have to stop the bombing and negotiate an equitable solution with the Yugoslavs, now.

MARK S K TUROWICZ  
New Delhi

## BBC charges in

Sir: Contrary to your accusation that I am "leading the charge" against the BBC's coverage of the Balkan war (leading article, 17 April), I think it has been exemplary.

I made two specific and limited criticisms. The first was of the initial shortage of health warnings on reports from Belgrade. Listeners and viewers must be reminded of the restrictions under which journalists there operate, in particular, their lack of access to Kosovo, which means Serb actions go unreported. The BBC soon rectified this.

My second criticism was of senior BBC correspondents writing regular newspaper columns. This was prompted by John Simpson's *Sunday Telegraph* piece in the first week of the conflict headlined "Why this war isn't working".

The BBC has traditionally barred its correspondents from writing opinionated pieces for the

newspapers, because it damages their impartiality and credibility in the job the licence fee payer pays them to do for the BBC. That policy was good for the BBC and the interests of independent public service journalism. If it has changed, we should be told.

BEN BRADSHAW MP  
(Exeter, Lab)  
House of Commons  
The writer is a former BBC correspondent

## Written off

Sir: If Boyd Tonkin considers that the "silence" of British writers over the Kosovan war is "more deafening than bombs over Belgrade" (A Week in Books, 17 April), perhaps he should have his ears examined.

Writers as a class are no more compelled to respond instantly and in public to events than, say, chirpologists, who are on the whole a more homogeneous group. And to compare the writer unfavourably with the journalist, whose job precisely is to provide short-order comment, is completely misguided.

Even if writers actively concerned with war and peace have been sitting on their hands over Kosovo, it may be less to avoid wringing them than to think. Tolstoy's novel was not the fruit of a sleepless night followed by a couple of days' scribbling.

ROBIN BLAKE  
London EC1

## Role for Russia

Sir: At a time when Nato is, indeed, "over-dependent on coercion to bring this war to an early conclusion" (Lawrence Freedman, 14 April), it is never too late to focus again on diplomatic avenues. Russia is in a unique position to bring its influence to bear on Mr Milosevic, a fact acknowledged by the Nato Secretary General, Javier Solana, who, along with Robin Cook and others, has called for Russia to be drawn into efforts to find a solution to the Kosovo crisis.

The appointment of the former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin as President Yeltsin's "special representative on the settlement of the situation around Yugoslavia", gives a new impetus to the political process.

Your editorial of 13 April was correct to mention one essential precondition, namely that "Western governments must announce that the external borders of Yugoslavia are not in question." Maybe then, all this talk of a ground force invasion to set up a Nato protectorate can be put to one side and real pressure applied to Belgrade to compromise.

PAUL COLSTON  
Russian Information Agency  
Novosti  
London SW7

## Ethically clean?

Sir: The best wars have good names and it is time the latest Balkan affair was given one. As Nato is fighting ethnic cleansing for purely ethical reasons, why not dub it "The First Ethical Cleansing War"?

I suggest "First" because, now that our leaders are becoming ever more conspicuously ethical in their personal habits as well as political practices, the need for ethical wars is bound to increase. The third millennium could well be littered with ethical cleansing wars, titled "Second", "Third", "Fourth" and so on, until someone finally miscalculates and we blunder into the One and Only Nuclear War.

S L TURNER  
Cambridge

## Faraway country

Sir: How many Serbs or Albanians do you know? Most of us have never met or had anything to do with these people. Yet we are taking sides in a civil war. Nato is acting like a meddling mother-in-law who interferes in a married couple's private dispute.

ALEX McLAREN  
London SE23

## Healthy prisons

Sir: Your coverage of the Chief Inspector of Prisons' excellent report on the Wolds Prison concentrated on the Chief Inspector's suggestion that prisoners have asked to be returned to other prisons because they prefer the more familiar "mutual antipathy" not present at the Wolds (15 April).

If this were true I would be very worried, but it is not. As the governor of the Wolds has confirmed to me, one or two prisoners have asked to leave the Wolds, but not because of any discomfort caused by the excellent staff-prisoner relationships.

I share the Chief Inspector's opinion of Wolds as an outstanding prison. But it would be wrong to believe that its healthy staff-prisoner relationships are unique. Similar conditions prevail in the vast majority of our prisons. Our emphasis on staff mixing with prisoners and supervising them at all times and detaining and controlling them without recourse to armed perimeters makes us a prison service increasingly unique in international terms.

Our outstanding record in recent years in cutting escapes from prisons from 232 in 1993 to 28 last year could not be achieved without the considerable skills of prison officers in managing and influencing prisoners.

MARTIN NAREY  
Director General  
HM Prison Service  
London SW1

## Boys in danger

Sir: Professor Stephen Seann (letter, 16 April) argues that 16-year-old boys, but not girls, need legal protection from seduction by males. He says that, because of boys' relative immaturity, this is not unfair or illogical. To be logical and fair then, should 16-year-old boys not also be protected from seduction by females? Perhaps Professor Seann's efforts to protect immature young men might be better spent campaigning to raise the age at which boys can drive motor vehicles.

Dr P J MCCLAUGHLIN  
Liverpool

Sir: It is odd that, whilst much has been said both against and for gay sex with 16-year-old males, not a word is being uttered against doctors being allowed to prescribe the Pill to girls under 16, without the knowledge of their parents. Yet, it is a criminal offence to have sex with a girl under that age. To sell alcohol or tobacco to an under-age person is a punishable offence but not, apparently, the Pill.

ALAN J PAGE  
Stowmarket,  
Suffolk

## Artist in oak

Sir: I was interested to see the photograph of the Elfin Oak in Kensington Gardens, (Review, 15 April). It may not be generally known that it was carved (in the 1920s I believe) by a very talented Cornish artist named Ivor Innes.

He was a friend of my father, who commissioned him to carve another old oak in the garden of Brough House, Rustington, near Littlehampton, Sussex. Complete with fairy wishing well, it gave joy to hundreds of children who came to garden open days in the 1930s.

PETER M ANSEDELL  
Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire

## Lottery limits

Sir: Last Saturday the National Lottery was won by one ticket again, which is not unusual. The winner gets over £2m. Who needs such a large sum? If there was a maximum limit of £2m, the balance could be distributed among those ticket holders with five numbers plus bonus, which this week would have resulted in 12 winning approximately £600,000 each.

PETER SAYERS  
Brighton,  
East Sussex

## What's better than one grungy son? Two grungy sons

IT IS not often that a major leap forward takes place in the holiday industry. But such a leap forward is taking place today.

I am proud to announce a holiday-planning innovation which will revolutionise the way the British take holidays. It will solve the problem that taxes all but the most farsighted holiday-maker.

That is, making sure you go on holiday with the right people.

We can now plan where we go and when we go and how we go.

If we want a glossy French holiday home, we can look in a glossy brochure like *Chez Nous* or *Vacances en Campagne*; if we want a cruise, we can pick the ocean, the vessel, the cabin, even the nubile purser; if we want two weeks getting pink in Santa Alfalfa, we can home in on the hotel of our dreams.

But what we can't do is decide who we want to be on holiday with.

Oh, yes, you can take your family. Often you have no choice but to take your family. It is very difficult to tell your family that you are leaving them behind this year, even though your family might be secretly relieved.

So often you try to spread the stress by taking another family or your own relatives. Which doesn't work, does it? Between you and me, we wish we had a wider spread of friends and relations to choose from, don't we?

Well, now you have! Because this year I am introducing a new holiday catalogue called *En Famille*, from which you can choose the family you would like to go on holiday with.

Yes, the ideal family of your

choice - even though you've never met them before.

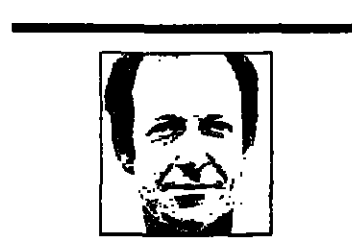
Picking a family by mail order? Doesn't sound right, does it?

And yet that's exactly what you do with a holiday home or hotel or cruise ship! You pick it out of a catalogue without hesitation because you like the sound of it or it looks nice in the photos or the description makes it sound just what you're looking for.

Well, if you can do it with a holiday home, why not with your holiday companions?

In *En Famille*, we have hundreds, if not thousands, of stunning colour photographs of families of all ages and sizes, one of which is bound to be the perfect fit for your holiday wants.

Say you are a normal (!) family of four people - father, mother, son,



MILES KINGTON

'My wife ran off with the husband of the family we hired from you last year. I can't thank you enough'

daughter. Father is dead keen on sailing. Mother hates sailing, loves shopping and antiques. Son quite

likes sailing but prefers video games and loafing around. Daughter hates her brother, likes horses and pouting a lot.

Bit of a problem, eh?

The long-term solution is obvious. This family is headed for disaster and should be split up immediately, each member being relocated in another family.

But in the short term, for holiday purposes, turn immediately to the pages of *En Famille* and, using the sophisticated step-by-step guide, find another family with a yacht-mad father, a shopaholic mother, a grungy son and a moody, horse-loving daughter.

Book them to go on holiday with you, and your problems are over! Perhaps you don't need an entire family, just a companion for your moody teenager or a golfing crony

for your golf-mad dad? These, too, can be hired singly from *En Famille*! You don't have to have a whole family from the catalogue - just one family individual can easily be hired.

We have plenty of individuals for hire, ranging from louché single mother to bulimic teenage daughter, from studious 20-year-old anorak to football-mad, middle-aged and paunchy!

Although *En Famille* is in its first full year of operations, we had a pilot run last year, and initial reports were unbearably exciting.

Here are some of the comments we received from happy first-time *En Famille* users...

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beyond my wildest dreams to be able to hire a fellow enthusiast!"

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## The Italians can teach us something about referendums

THE FAILURE of Sunday's referendum in Italy to abolish proportional representation (PR) is first and foremost a blow to referendums - though, through the distorting lens of British politics, some may mistake it for a blow to PR. Although 90 per cent of the voters favoured abolition, only 49.6 per cent of the eligible electors bothered to cast their vote. The Interior Ministry therefore declared the referendum invalid, as the quorum of 50 per cent plus one vote was not achieved. Referendums are not simple tests of public opinion.

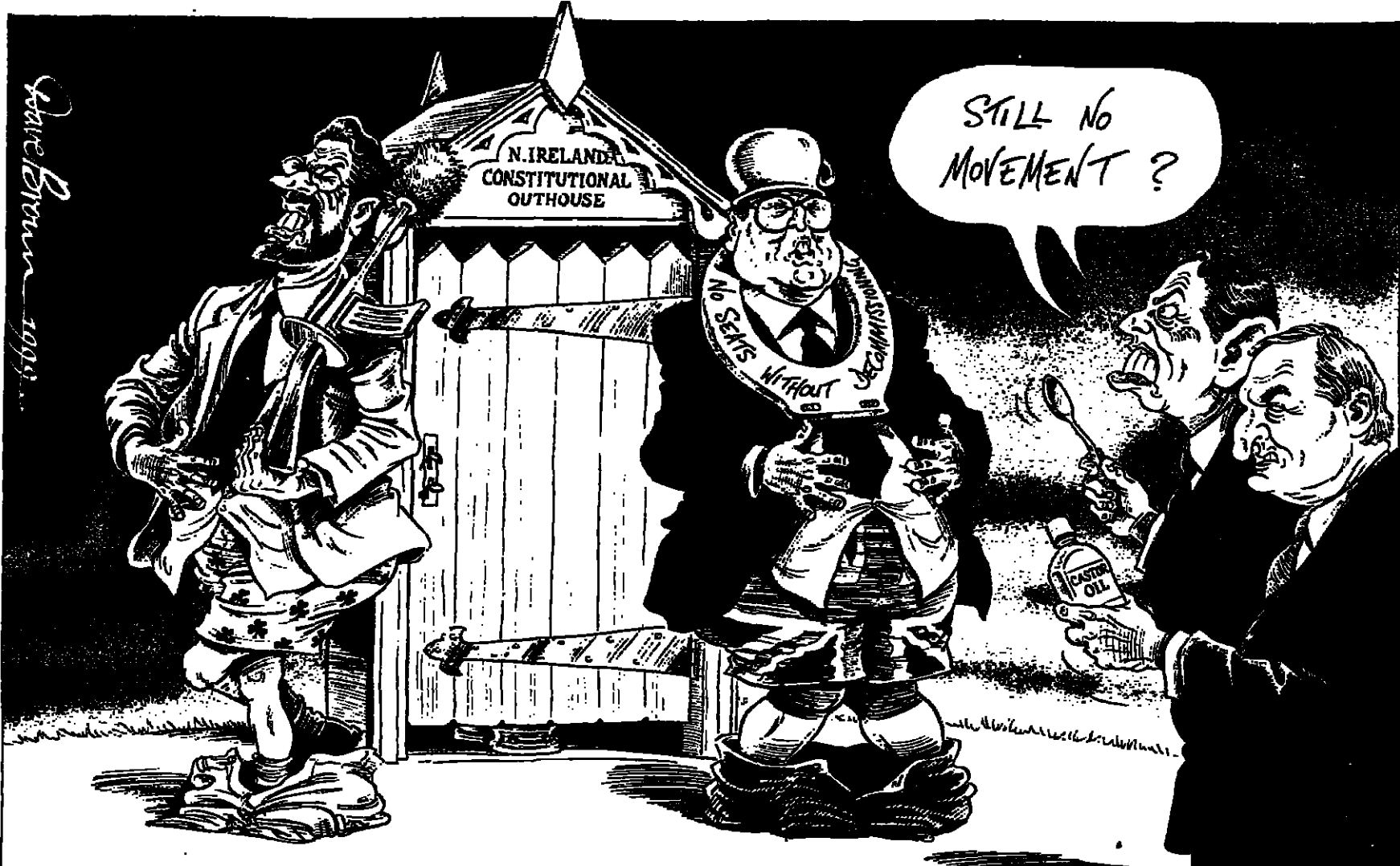
Opponents of PR have often cited Italy as an example to show the dangers of a proportional system. But Italians have built an economy as successful as our own. Italy's post-war political mess was not the fault of PR; it was the product of the determination of the Western Allies to block the Italian Communist party from ever being in power. Romano Prodi recently showed what the Italian political system was capable of despite the supposed problem of PR. Mr Prodi, as Italy's Prime Minister, guided the Italian lira into membership of the single European currency against all the predictions of the readers of political coffee-grounds.

What the Italian vote does do is to throw a light on the increasingly important part that referendums are playing in shaping the future of this country. The British political system has only recently taken to this constitutional novelty. Memories of Hitler's abuse of the Weimar constitution led politicians to regard them as a demagogue's tool until the Seventies.

Although unnecessary under our parliamentary system, referendums have now become Labour's favourite means of giving its decisions a bit of extra legitimacy. However, there needs to be something more than the ad hoc system that currently controls their use, if they are not to cause more confusion than clarity.

The problems that can arise are illustrated by the Scottish referendum of 1979. The Cunningham amendment to the Scotland Act required 40 per cent of the electorate to vote in favour of the devolution proposal, in order for it to be carried. Despite the fact that most voters were in favour of devolution, low turn-out ensured its defeat. The requirement of 40 per cent of the electorate in favour of a proposal is a useful brake on the whims of politicians, especially where, as in the UK, there is no written constitution.

The Scottish, Welsh and London referendums of the past two years must lead to the conclusion that the process of referendums needs to be strictly regulated. In the Welsh referendum last spring the pro-assembly vote won only 50.3 per cent of about 60 per cent of the electorate. The government of the day can skew the results of a referendum with ease, both through choosing the way in which



## At last an explanation for Djakovica's dead

AFTER FIVE days of denials and evasions, Nato has finally come clean and admitted what this newspaper's Robert Fisk, and others, have been reporting from the ground: it was Allied planes that were responsible for the attack on a refugee convoy south east of Djakovica last Wednesday, with the loss of up to 80 civilian lives.

Nato still rejects the notion that Allied aircraft could have been responsible for machine-gunning some of those slaughtered. Its generals continue to argue that the Serbs may have removed signs of military vehicles between the time of the attack and the visit of Western journalists.

Such prevarication is unnecessary, as the admission is belated. Accidents do happen in the fog of war. The mistaken Djakovica attacks bears no equivalence to the delib-

erate massacres that have been perpetrated by the Serbs.

Nato and its spokesmen should have trusted the public with the truth from the start. What is worrying is not so much the incident itself, although that is tragic enough, but what it tells us of Allied tactics. The slaughter on the Djakovica road was the result of bombing from high altitude in a war in which Nato still feels fearful of engaging the enemy at close quarters. Although Allied commanders are reluctant to admit it, the initial month of bombing has damaged Serbian logistics but it has not taken out President Milosevic's air defences. Low-flying aircraft remain vulnerable to his fixed defences and to the hand-held rockets that his troops carry. At the same time, the dispersal of the Serbian paramilitaries in Kosovo makes it extremely difficult to target them accurately.

That is no counsel of despair, just one of sober realism. Having entered this war, however ill-prepared, the Allies must win it. That requires clear-eyed assessment within Nato and honesty to the public at large.

## Is there any more to Englishness than the Titfield Thunderbolt?



**DAVID AARONOVITCH**  
*The war has reminded us of the limitations of small nations, like the idea of a Welsh air force*

PERHAPS I was nine when I inscribed this on the front of my school exercise book. "David Aaronovitch, 19 Bromwich Avenue, Highgate, London, England, Great Britain, The United Kingdom, Europe (it was 1964 and the Empire was gone), the World, the Solar System, The Universe." Most readers of this column probably did the same. It was a celebration. I suppose, of all the possible identities that we could have had, ranging from what was utterly unique about us, to what was most universally shared.

Today my kids seem pleased to be half-Welsh, part-Jewish, entirely Londoners and (insofar as they think about constitutional nationality) interchangeably English or British. Their greatest fear is of asteroids.

But will their insouciance - or mine - survive the experience of a chain of events to be set in motion in a fortnight? When Scotland has its parliament and Wales its assembly, when - according to the pessimists - nationalist demagogues vie with one another to blame England for their woes and demand further separation; when the Tories of the shires react by donning crusaders' surcoats of red cross on white background; when Great Britain is no more - how shall we English identify ourselves then?

For a short while last autumn, what might be called the English Question seemed set to occupy an important place in millennial politics. Some senior Tories sniffed around it a bit, calculating that an exploded Labour Britain had, at its core, a more or less perpetually Conservative England. Should this born-again nation

have its own parliament - elected by first-past-the-post - the body would be dominated, in four elections out of five, by William Hague and his successors. With 50 million of Great Britain's 58 million inhabitants, England is not a bad second prize.

In the week before the last St George's Day of the millennium, however, such an outcome looks more remote. This is partly because the campaigns for the devolved parliaments have managed to be both hard-fought and restrained affairs.

Anti-English nationalism seems to have played little or no part in the political narrative now being told to the Scottish and Welsh people. Indeed, the war in Kosovo may have acted to remind voters of the limitations of small nationhood, unless you can easily imagine the dispatch from Cardiff of all 10 planes of the Welsh Air Force en route for the Balkans.

Nevertheless, you don't have to be a post-devolution catastrophist to believe that we must also have a conversation about England. Not least because vibrant, confident and self-assertive debates in Scotland and Wales will require some echoes in England if we are not to fall behind. It is interesting, for instance, how cleverly the government and people of the Irish Republic have managed Irishness, making it one of Europe's most attractive and lucrative identities.

In this context Englishness could well be a disaster. Most English people's conception of England seems to be a mishmash of postcard images, cardboard pageantry, rural yearning, vague notions of tolerance and a

belief in "common sense". I don't think it would be at all hard for certain stories of what England is and the English are to be created and imposed upon us.

One of these stories is already well advanced in the telling. Successive books of travels in England have, over the last couple of years, cast us as a nation divided. According to these tales we consist of a complacent suburban class (unworthy itself of study), and an alienated stratum of child prostitutes, drug addicts, murderers, fascists, anarchists, male strippers and rough sleepers. This miserabilism is deeply pessimistic and suggests that the predominant characteristics of the English are violence, hypocrisy and ignorance.

Now, hard on its heels, comes the second Englishness. Less document-

tary and more aspirational, this is England as taught at the best prep schools, and is represented to us in Simon Heffer's new book, *Nor Shall My Sword: The Reinvention of England*. Heffer's England, Hefferland, is the England of Ealing studios and, most particularly, the England of *The Titfield Thunderbolt* (the film where villagers press an antique locomotive into action so as to defeat the machinations of both Whitehall and a Murdochian bus company). It is inventive, parochial, anti-bureaucratic and keenly aware of its own history.

Heffer is not a racist. But he believes that England can only thrive if "English culture" prevails over "multiculturalism". Fundamentally, he argues, "the English are a Christian people." True, Englishness has been strengthened by the results of immigration, but this has happened through "assimilation". So, for immigrants, "English law must be their law: their children must speak English at school and be taught about English customs in just the same way as the ethnic majority is". These customs include Easter, the royal family and Parliament.

To help out here, in an independent England, there should be a Department of Culture. And, among its other duties, this department should insist that the new English Broadcasting Corporation "be required (to ensure) that its musical output - popular as well as classical - gives weight to English artists and composers". English heroes would be brought back on to the syllabus. "More modern forms of expression, such as cinema, must be encouraged, too," argues Heffer, continuing, in a glorious moment of unconscious fogeyism: "Seldom has the nature of England and English life been expressed so vividly as in the English cinema of the 1940s."

I would take Heffer over the miserabilists any day, but neither will do. His great sin (a very English vice) is to confuse custom and culture. In truth, they have little to do with each other. English customs have changed and evolved, sometimes rapidly, sometimes slowly. If Hallowe'en is an English custom, then who does Trick or Treat unknown when I was a boy, and now almost universally observed? belong to? How has it come about that English attitudes towards the monarchy have completely altered in just over a decade?

Even our emotions may not be as pre-programmed as we've been led to believe. Iain Pears, in the collection *Myths of the English*, notes that Erasmus made amazed reference to the emotional openness of the 16th century English and their habit of kissing everyone they met.

English culture, however, is much more resilient. For good and for ill. Take, for example, our empiricism and reliance on evidence as opposed to theory. This can result in a healthy scepticism, but its negative side is anti-intellectualism. Or how about the constant battle between our need to preserve the past and our great desire to be modern? It is these embedded characteristics, and neither the underclass nor the monarchy, that will define our future if we are to have a future as an English nation.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"I don't expect either side to lose all but neither do I expect either side to win all."  
*Bertie Ahern, the Irish premier after talks on the Northern Ireland peace process*

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
"War will never cease until babies begin to come into the world with larger cerebriums and smaller adrenal glands."  
*HL Mencken, American journalist*

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THE GOVERNMENT which has been voted out was no advertisement for good governance. But the replacement, which may be constituted now, it can be comfortably predicted, will be worse. What will distinguish the alternative is that, even by current standards of politics, it will have been born with unconscionable lapses from very basic principles. Surely we deserve a more credible list of prime ministerial candidates than this. Come

## MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
*The Indian press comments on the fall of the government in New Delhi*

THE EARLIER this Lok Sabha (lower house of parliament) is dissolved and elections are scheduled, the better it would be from the standpoint of the country's overall interests and those of the people. Today, it is a struggle between the spirit of our Constitution and the craftiness of politicians out to exploit it for selfish gains.  
*Times of India*


popular agendas. If one has been disabled from doing so in the hurry-burly of politics, another will. So long as there are popular agendas, political instruments will seek to implement them. That's the plus of the Indian democracy.  
*The Economic Times*

WHATEVER THE political chasm between them, the Congress and the BJP have a lot in common on questions relating to the economy. Both parties have a big stake in ensuring that what is economically beneficial for the nation should not be sacrificed at the altar of politics. Political consensus is impossible in today's contentious politics. Economic consensus is not subject to divisive politics based on caste and communal differences. The Congress assurance on the budget is a good augury for the nation and a confidence-building measure.  
*Hindustan Times*



# No, I'm not jealous of Roald Dahl

# No, W



## TIMOTHY GARTON ASH

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### TUESDAY

ANY PART



# No, we're right to fight this war



**TIMOTHY GARTON ASH**

*The irony is if we had prepared the troops, we might not have had to use them. Because we didn't, we probably will*

EVERY COUNTRY has its own sort of argument about this war. Characteristically, the currency of our British argument seems to be 19th-century statesmen. In a leading article entitled "End This Liberal War", *The Spectator* argues that we should "replace Gladstone with Bismarck or at least Disraeli". "The national interest has been scorned" in favour of a woolly attachment to the cause of "humanity in general", the magazine suggests.

In a commentary in *The Times* headlined "Bloody Liberals", Simon Jenkins also starts with Gladstone, and goes on to denounce the new "liberal imperialism" - specifically located in *The Independent*, *The Observer* and *The Guardian* - whom he finds to be distinguished by a "reckless recourse to force, especially air power". It is, he says, "as if they yearn to unleash their pent-up aggression against the sins of the world". In sum, the half-baked, emotional, romantic, moralistic, hypocritical, neo-Gladstonian pursuit of liberal values has led us into this mess, while only a cool, hard-nosed, Disraelian or Bismarckian appraisal of national interests will lead us (though hardly the Kosovars) back to the valley of peace and reason.

As something of a bloody liberal myself, I want to break a lance for neo-Gladstonism. But, since we also try to be bloody honest, let us start by acknowledging three things. First, there is something unusual, a touch of the *bal paradoxe*, about a war whose strongest supporters are on the left and fiercest critics on the right. Second, some of the rhetoric, whether from Tony Blair, Bill Clinton or the Nato spokesman Jamie Shea, has been over the top. Third, and most important, nearly a month into the war we can see that Nato began it with a disastrous miscalculation of Milosevic's reaction to an air offensive. His forces had made some quarter of a million Kosovar Albanians homeless in the year before the bombing began; they have expelled perhaps three times that number since. This is Nato's 50th birthday present to itself.

However, that tragic blunder does not in any sense flow consequentially from a liberal sense of how we should act. Yes, the liberals Clinton and Blair misjudged the dictator Milosevic. But the conservative Neville Chamberlain misjudged Hitler, the conservative Churchill thought he had a deal with Stalin and the Gaullist Jacques Chirac admired the pragmatic moderniser Saddam Hussein. Underestimating the perfidy of dictators is the common fault of most democratic politicians. And the strategic mistake was not the decision to threaten the use of force. It was the decision to



A Macedonian Serb holds a portrait of Slobodan Milosevic during an anti-Nato demonstration in Skopje. *Fehim Demir/EPA*

start bombing without having prepared the ground troops to make the threat credible. The irony in this case is that if we had prepared the ground troops we might not have had to use them in combat because we did not, we probably will. So the problem was not too much liberal readiness to intervene militarily, but too little.

Gladstone! Hadst thou been living at this hour! What Gladstone pioneered was an approach that attempted to marry liberal values to the traditional, unbounded self-interest of states. He preached (and preaching is very much the right word, for him as for Tony Blair) a philosophy of what I call liberal order. He was ahead of his time - this

philosophy gained acceptance in principle by leading Western states only after 1945.

This approach still accepts as the foundation of international order the principle of non-intervention in the affairs of sovereign states. But it qualifies this by saying: what rulers do to their own citizens is not purely their own affair, and there are a few extreme things they may do - such as killing, maiming or expelling large numbers of their own citizens - that in principle justify the intervention of the "international community" to prevent it, or at least to punish the perpetrators afterwards. This is the philosophy underpinning linkages between trade and respect for human rights, the

monitoring activities of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the international court for war crimes and crimes against humanity. It is what Tony Blair tries to articulate in his rather evangelical way.

"Rumbug!" cry the scoffers from the hard-nosed "realist" right - and a few from the far left, too. "If these are your principles, why didn't you bomb the killers in Rwanda or East Timor. Or intervene to defend the Kurds against our Nato ally, Turkey?" Well, of course there are double standards - multiple standards, in fact. Yet it's also true that we can't intervene everywhere. Because I don't prevent a murder

in Brooklyn, it doesn't mean I shouldn't try to stop one in Camden. Duties are related to distance: strongest to those nearest.

So then comes the argument that we should act over Kosovo because it is "in Europe". This has to be handled with care. What we are emphatically not saying is that white European lives are more valuable than black African lives. What we are saying is that this is nearer to us and that we are part of European institutions that have a capacity to act in those parts and are directly affected by what happens there. Here the moral argument shades into the political one - the one about interests.

The non-interventionists tell us that they fail to see how any British national interests are involved. But that is, precisely, a failure to see. They are (since we are trading in dead prime ministers here) perpetrating the Neville Chamberlain mistake of believing that things happening in such far-away countries of which we know little will not affect us, too, in the end. Simon Jenkins, for example, has consistently argued for a British policy of non-intervention in Yugoslavia. I respect the consistency; but it is a dangerous illusion to believe that we could have left it to work itself out on its own.

No, what these critics force us to address is not the folly of liberal interventionism, but the folly of half-measures. What we have needed all along, during the whole decade since the end of the Cold War, has been a systematic effort of neo-Gladstonian realism to build a liberal order for the whole of Europe. This would have required - and requires still - a many-sided commitment, economic, political, diplomatic, non-governmental as well as governmental, for a whole region. In such a policy, the dangerous paradox of "humanitarian war" is only the last resort, the ultimate deterrent. But then it has to be a credible deterrent, as our bombs clearly were not in this case.

Such a many-sided commitment also requires a commitment from many sides. Where the important principle of non-intervention is to be overridden, it is essential that as many different states as possible are involved. Otherwise any old state could bomb any other in the name of humanity. Gladstone foresaw this imperative of multilateralism, calling on "United Europe" to protest against Turkish brutality (ironically, the Serbs were among the people he was speaking up for). Perhaps the most difficult problem for liberal internationalists in supporting more decisive action in Kosovo, including the ground troops that alone can reverse the ethnic cleansing, is not the charge of double standards or that of ignoring interests - for the long-term interests are there - but this matter of the mandate. Yet having reached this point, having put Nato's credibility at stake, having precipitated the humanitarian disaster, we cannot allow Russia alone to veto further action.

To sustain popular support for such action, we have our latter-day Gladstones, Clinton and Blair, echoing the grand old man's magnificent peroration about the affront to "the laws of God, or if you like, of Allah; to the moral sense of mankind at large". Well, is what Serb forces have done to the Kosovars such an affront? So let *The Spectator* support Bismarck on this issue; me, I'll stick with Gladstone.

*'History of the Present: Essays, Sketches and Despatches from Europe in the 1990s' by Timothy Garton Ash will be published by Penguin in June*

## RIGHT OF REPLY

CONRAD RUSSELL



The Liberal Democrat peer responds to yesterday's article by Donald Macintyre

IT HAS become fashionable for commentators and some politicians to belittle "activists", as Donald Macintyre has done ("On Ashdown's successor hangs the future of the Blair project"). Indeed I know serious politicians who use the word "activist", as it, as Brian Walden remarked in a different context, it were "some kind of strange new American swear word". We know how this happened: the Militant tendency and their ilk gave activism a bad name.

But could this be another example of the tendency of politicians to fight the last war? Can a political party have an active parliamentary party or even a leader with experience of political judgement, without an active base to recruit them from? Can a political party win seats simply on the basis of an "airwaves war" alone?

It is not for me to answer for others. For the Liberal Democrats, about whom Mr Macintyre was making his remarks, I must say that activism is more important than they are for the other parties. Labour and the Tories have a significant hereditary vote, born with their party loyalty on their birth certificates. We, by contrast, have to win our votes by persuasion, seat by seat and election by election. It is experience, not just conventional wisdom, that leads us to say, "where we work we win".

Liberal Democrat activists are as able and as intellectually sophisticated a body of people as our parliamentarians. Many of them even have what our MPs lack: the experience of power. We do not need to preach to them about the compromises of power; they have made them.

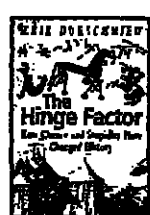
We need our activists in a way the other two parties do not. They have sometimes needed to kick their activists in the teeth. If we do the same, we stab ourselves in the vitals.

# How bees shamed the British army

"WAR IS too important to be left to the generals," argued the French statesman Georges Clemenceau. And the history of war is too important to be left to military commentators.

Erik Durschmied, a veteran TV war reporter who (according to *Le Monde*) "has survived more battles than any living general", needs sometimes to step outside his experience in this colourful study of turning-points in famous battles. The air of absorbed saturation in details is so strong that Durschmied brings no other slant to the narration, no "philosophy of history". It seems that this reporter is so inured to the agony of slaughter that, as a storyteller, he revels in gore. Butchery, he implies, is his raw material, as kisses and flirtation are for a romantic novelist.

I read the book with mixed reactions. In readable, graphic detail, it recounts 17 episodes in the history of



## TUESDAY BOOK

**THE HINGE FACTOR:  
HOW CHANCE AND STUPIDITY  
HAVE CHANGED HISTORY**  
BY ERIK DURSCHMIED  
HODDER & STOUGHTON, £15.99

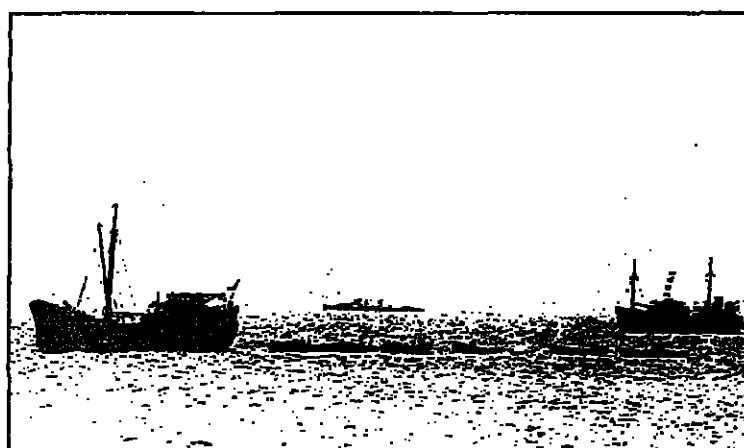
war, from the Siege of Troy to the Gulf war of 1991, that highlight the role of accident, error and the capricious twist of fate - the "hinge factor". Some of this is well-trodden ground: Agincourt, Waterloo - where the French cavalry forgot to spike captured British guns, which were then retaken - the sinking of the *Bismarck*. Some is genuinely fresh: Antietam, in the American Civil War, where Union troops in no man's land stumbled upon the Confederate battle plan, wrapped around three cigars; Tanga,

in East Africa, where in 1914 advancing British forces were routed by the sudden attack of a swarm of bees. And it's a connoisseur's delight to find out how a misplaced full stop in a brief order sent by Lord Raglan to Lord Lucan created that supreme misunderstanding, the Charge of the Light Brigade.

The interplay of factors in the history of conflict often surprises. Hitler, attacking France in 1940, was a strategic conservative - unlike his thrusting tank supremo, Guderian. He responded to a rare successful British riposte with tanks at Arras by ordering his panzers to pause and taking up Goering's offer to finish off the British with the Luftwaffe; hence the miracle of Dunkirk. With passages from soldiers' letters and diaries unearthed for the first time, Durschmied brings an eye for the telling detail.

But you may need to bypass the stomach-churning side. He is especially keen on the analogy of beetles to portray men struggling for life as forced immobility seals off their escape from bayonets or swords. The impact of death multiplied on death could make you wary of handing this book to a 14-year-old with a yen for true-life drama and a zeal for history.

Not that the author is callous. Rather, it's as if he is so familiar with fighting he has covered Vietnam, Beirut, Belfast, Iraq and Afghanistan that he tells war stories like a horror-comic addict. He fails to see that satiating your readers with blood and carnage breaks up genuinely capti-



The miracle of Dunkirk... all thanks to Hitler's strategic conservatism

ivating snapshots of high drama. If he is laying on the gore to convey the tragedy of war, "man's favourite occupation", then he could have made his intentions clearer.

His tales of mayhem and confusion can be gripping, informative and genuinely idea-provoking. He reveals, again and again, the casual impact of happenstance - including weather shifts, officers who disobey orders and the sort of thousand-to-one chance that sank the *Bismarck* - without tracing patterns. His data suggest that victory often does not go to the big battalions or to those, like Eisenhower, who plan on formidably scientific lines: a useful reminder for Nato strategists now.

But any characterisation of "chance" should go further. Theorists of history have been debating these issues for a century. A traditional school espoused the role of individuals as shapers of events. RG Collingwood saw the challenge of writing about the past as a reconstruction of personal psychology, citing the battle plans of generals as his model. Against them are the believers in the "Great Im-

personal Forces" satirised by TS Eliot, such as Marx and Tolstoy.

Between are those who are struck by the play of chance and contingency. One spoof version makes fun of the "Cleopatra's nose" school. What would have become of the Roman Empire if Cleopatra's nose had been shorter and if she had not been to the liking of Mark Antony? As Ben Franklin's ditty put it in 1758: "For want of a nail, the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe, the horse was lost; for want of a horse, the message was lost." This insight terrifies all crisis planners.

If Durschmied had added some sophistication to his action-packed reporter's approach, sidestepped the dead-end issue of nuclear Armageddon and lined up his insights next to a compelling debate on the role of chance in history, his book would cut more ice. The history of war needs to appeal beyond armchair strategists, military buffs and adventure-yarn devotees. We badly need more sceptical lay comment, informed with a deeper perspective, on the war we now watch on our screens.

ROBERT SILVER

## TUESDAY POEM

**ANY PART OF PIGGY**  
BY NOËL COWARD

Any part of piggy  
Is quite all right with me  
Ham from Westphalia, ham from Parma  
Ham as lean as the Dalai Lama  
Ham from Virginia, ham from York,  
Trotters, sausages, hot roast pork.  
Cracking crisp for my teeth to grind on  
Bacon with or without the rind on  
Though humanitarian  
I'm not a vegetarian.  
I'm neither crank nor prude nor prig  
And though it may sound infra dig  
Any part of darling pig  
Is perfectly fine with me.

From Noël Coward's "Collected Verse", published by Methuen (£8.99) to mark the centenary of Coward's birth.

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Elves in Oak Tree in Kensington Gardens  
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# Skip Spence

SKIP SPENCE, a founding member of Jefferson Airplane and Moby Grape, personified the lost genius of the psychedelic Sixties. A pivotal figure on the San Francisco scene, Spence's free spirit extended down the years; he named the Doobie Brothers and influenced Led Zeppelin, REM and Beck along the way.

He was born Alexander Spence in Canada in 1946, and was given a guitar by his parents at the age of 10. A precocious talent, he also played the drum in his school band, a skill which would come in handy when, having moved to California in the mid-Sixties, he dived into the burgeoning hippie scene of the Bay Area.

Spence had already been approached to join Quicksilver Messenger Service as a guitarist when he bumped into the singer Marty Balin at the Matrix, a San Francisco club also used as a rehearsal room. Dissatisfied with the drummer Jerry Pelquin, who was only in so the group could use his apartment in Haight Ashbury, the frontman offered the drumming stool to Spence, who looked the part. Spence jumped at the chance and joined a Jefferson Airplane line-up which also featured the guitarists Paul Kantner and Jorma Kaukonen and singer Signe Toly Anderson. "It's No Secret", the Airplane's first single, was released in February 1966, just as Jack Casady replaced the original bassist Bob Harvey.

Spence stayed with the Airplane for over a year and contributed several songs (notably "Blues From An Airplane") to their debut album, entitled *Jefferson Airplane Takes Off*, eventually issued by RCA Records later that year. Further personnel changes saw Anderson quit to have children and Grace Slick, formerly lead vocalist with the Great Society, take over, bringing with her "White Rabbit" and "Somebody To Love", two seminal compositions which became the Airplane's first hits and true flower-power anthems.

By the time these million-selling singles reached the US Top Ten in 1967, Spence, who felt his songwriting was being eclipsed by the other members (though his "My Best Friend" was included on *Surrealistic Pillow*, the group's second album), had stopped attending rehearsals and was dismissed in favour of Spencer Dryden. At the same time, the Jefferson Airplane switched their management to a local concert promoter Bill Graham, leaving Matthew Katz in the lurch.

Katz kept Spence on his books and hatched a plan to form a band around him in San Francisco. He asked the guitarist Peter Lewis and bassist Bob Mosley to come up from Los Angeles to see if they fitted in. Adding a drummer, Don Stevenson, and guitarist, Jerry Miller, the group, Moby Grape, started to rehearse and instantly found a distinctive sound, blending three guitar parts, vocal harmonies and distinctive compositions of all five members, with Spence often at the helm. "Skip was always 'high' on this other level," said Peter Lewis in

*'Skip and Bob Mosley were thinking of this joke: What's purple and swims in the ocean? "Moby Grape" they said, "we'll just be Moby Grape"'*

the sleeve notes to a 1993 compilation, *Vintage: The Very Best of Moby Grape*. He recalled:

His mind was always churning with stuff. It was hard for him to sit and talk. He didn't deal in words but in ideas. He was the most unique songwriter I'd ever heard. Like in "Indifference" on the first album, the way he changed keys right in the middle of the song. Skip was definitely not copying anybody I'd ever heard. Yet it always came out great.

The name Moby Grape reflected the crazy times. According to Jerry Miller:

Skip and Bob (Mosley) went out to have a little lunch and they came back laughing like crazy with a name for the band. They were thinking of this joke: what's purple and swims in the ocean? So they came back in and said, Moby Grape, we'll just be Moby Grape. That's how it happened. We all laughed and got along with that pretty good. Our manager liked Bentley Escort because it related to Jefferson Airplane and Strawberry Alarm Clock but we hated that one. Moby Grape sounded good and it was made up by the band. Skip appeared to be crazy but he was crazy like a fox. He was a full-on Aries, laughing all the time.

After two months of solid rehearsals in Sausalito, the group played the Fillmore in San Francisco in November 1966 and instantly started a bidding war between record companies. "When I first saw them play," remembers David Robinson, the A&R man who won the battle and signed the group to Columbia, "I knew this was a band that could go around the country, around the world and really kill!" Sam Andrews, guitarist with Big Brother and the Holding Company (featuring Janis Joplin) was full of praise too. "You guys are better than the Beatles," he told Lewis.

Indeed, the quintet's debut album, simply entitled *Moby Grape*, remains a classic of its time, worthy of inclusion alongside *The Beatles' Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* and *Love's Forever Changes*, also released in 1967. Unfortunately, an over-eager record company and inept manager conspired to oversell the group with a lavish launch in June at the Avalon Ballroom during which thousands of purple orchids fell from the ceiling. The next day, Miller, Lewis and Spence were found in Marin County with three under-age girls and duly arrested, though charges were later dropped.

Columbia also simultaneously issued five singles from the album when they should have been concentrating on the stunning "Omaha", a Spence composition which nevertheless crept into the Top 100. *Moby Grape* reached No 24 on the LP charts (though drummer Don Stevenson's raised finger had to be erased from the sleeve). "Omaha" was pure Spence energy," declared David Robinson later.

He was the maniacal core of the band, the guy who would say fuck it, let's do it anyway. He was an idiot savant. He couldn't add a column or figures, couldn't pay a check in a restaurant, but he saw things in a clear light. He could see through immediately to the truth of what was going on.

The truth was that the five members didn't get on. "Six months after we met, we were rock stars. That was horrible," admitted Lewis. Later that year, following abortive sessions in Los Angeles, the group were sent to New York to complete *Wow*, the follow-up album, which made the Top Twenty. The relocation seemed to have pushed Spence, who consumed psychedelic drugs at an alarming rate, over the edge. Considering that the singer had howled "Save me, save me!" when recording a demo of "See-



Spence (crouching) with the other members of Moby Grape Michael Ochs Archives / Redferns

ing", the others should have seen the writing on the wall. One day in 1968, Spence went looking for them with an axe. He was jailed and committed to the Bellevue Hospital for six months.

The four remaining musicians attempted to carry on, even touring the UK, despite becoming embroiled in a dispute with Katz, who claimed all rights to the Moby Grape name and put together a bogus version of the band which played the ill-fated 1969 Altamont gig. The legal dispute would rumble on for years; the original group members attempting to reform even resorted to calling themselves Moby Grape or Legendary Grape.

Following his discharge from

hospital in 1968, Spence went to Nashville and in four days recorded the dark and whimsical *Oar*, a truly solo album on which he played every single instrument. Over the years, this record gained something of a cult following and, after its reissue on CD in 1993, was even the subject of a "Buried Treasure" feature in *Mojo* magazine. By then, Spence had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic and had been in and out of mental institutions for most of the Seventies and Eighties. Sometimes, he managed to rejoin his former cohorts but, more usually, he would contribute the odd track to one of their albums before disappearing again.

Spence wrote some music for an episode of the revived television series *The Twilight Zone* and the *X-Files* film, but neither score was used. He struggled on with various illnesses and, before his death, heard *More Oar*, a tribute album assembled by the likes of Tom Waits, Robert Plant, Wilco, and Michael Stipe of REM. It will be issued in July.

PIERRE PERRONE

Alexander Lee "Skip" Spence, singer, songwriter, guitarist, drummer: born Windsor, Ontario 18 April 1946; married (three sons, one daughter); died Santa Cruz, California 16 April 1999.

## Ellen Corby

THE DIMINUTIVE character actress Ellen Corby had contributed distinctive supporting performances to over 60 films before she became a household name with her portrayal of the tart-tongued grandmother in the television series *The Waltons*, for which she won three Emmy Awards. She was a regular on that series for eight years until a stroke curtailed her appearances. Earlier she had been an Academy Award nominee for her role of a lovelorn spinster in *I Remember Mama* (1947).

Of Scandinavian origin, she was born Ellen Hansen in Racine, Wisconsin in 1913 and started to work in the film industry as a continuity girl in 1934. After 12 years she switched to acting and made her screen debut in Henry Hathaway's film noir *The Dark Corner* (1946), with a telling bit part as a cleaning woman who finds a dead body.

It was the first of many roles for the dark-haired, thin-lipped actress as servants, spinsters or gossiping neighbours in films including *Cornered* (1946), *It's A Wonderful Life* (1946), *The Spiral Staircase* (1946) and *Forever Amber* (1947). Her finest screen role was in *I Remember Mama* (1947), George Stevens's beguiling transcription of Kathryn Forbes' novelised reminiscences of

growing up as a part of a Norwegian family in San Francisco.

Corby was immensely touching as homely middle-aged Aunt Katrina who falls in love with the local undertaker (Edgar Bergen) and is fearful of her family's scorn ("if they laugh at me I jump in the river"). Nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting Actress, she had stiff competition (Barbara Bel Geddes in the same film, Jean Simmons in *Hamlet*, Agnes Moorehead in *Johnny Belinda*, and Claire Trevor, who won the award for her role in *Key Largo*).

Subsequent roles included that of a midwife delivering Emma Bovary's child in Vincente Minnelli's *Madame Bovary* and a prominent role in John Cromwell's stark depiction of life in a women's prison, *Caged* (1950). Corby provided welcome light relief in the film as the scatterbrained killer of her abusive husband ("Who is this Pearl Harbor?").

In Allan Dwan's torrid thriller *Slightly Soiled* (1957) she was maid-servant to red-headed sisters Rhonda Fleming and Arlene Dahl, and in Hitchcock's *Vertigo* (1958) she was part of the film's most contentious sequence, as the boarding-house receptionist who denies to the hero James Stewart that her tenant (Kim Novak) has been in the house that day

though Stewart has seen her enter the building and appear at the window (the sequence is never explained).

Corby appeared frequently as a guest star on television series, and was in so many western shows (including *Wagon Train*, *The Virginian* and *Riflemen*) that she was awarded the Golden Boot Award by the Motion Picture and Television Fund in 1969. She had her first regular role in a television series as Martha the family maid in *Please Don't Eat The Daisies*, based on Jean Kerr's book about an unusual suburban family.

The show ran for two years (1965-67), but it was *The Waltons*, first transmitted in 1972, which was to prove the greatest success of Corby's career. Based on Earl Hamner Jr's reminiscences of his childhood during the Depression years in the South, and set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of rural Jefferson County, Virginia, it was considered the most wholesome of television programmes with moralistic homilies aplenty. To the surprise of many, it proved an enormous hit and vanquished its main competition, *The Flip Wilson Show*, then one of the most popular on television.

The warm family drama, seen through the eyes of the eldest son John Boy, who wanted to be a nov-

elist, was reputedly not a big hit in the large cities, but was loved by middle and rural America as well as in many other countries, including Britain. For her role as acerbic Esther (Grandma) Walton, Corby won the Emmy Award as Best Supporting Actress in a Drama three times (in 1973, 1975 and 1976).

When she suffered a stroke in 1977 (the season in which the Waltons moved out of the Depression and into the Second World War), her character was written out of the series with an illness, and Corby was seen only in the season's final episode, when Grandma came home to Walton's Mountain though partly incapacitated it was one of the most show's most sentimentally affecting segments. It was Ellen Corby's last appearance on the series, which finished in 1981, but she returned to play Grandma again in three television movies based on the show. *A Day of Thanks on Walton's Mountain* (1982), *A Wedding on Walton's Mountain* (1983) and *A Walton's Easter* (1997).

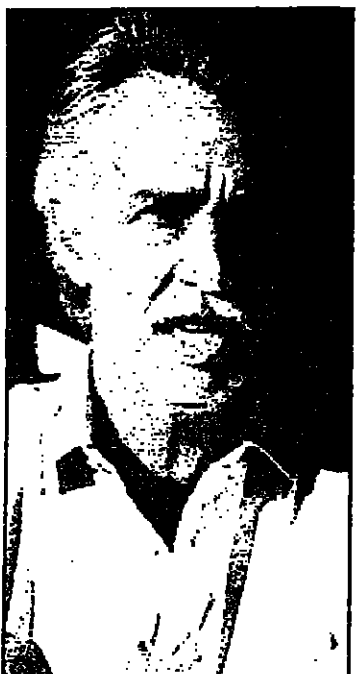
TOM VALLANCE

Ellen Hansen (Ellen Corby), actress: born Racine, Wisconsin 3 June 1913; died Los Angeles 14 April 1999.



Corby as Grandma Walton in *The Waltons*, with Richard Thomas (top, John Boy) and Will Geer (Grandpa) Kobal

## Luis Castro



Castro: unparalleled sense of Venezuela's problems

LUIS CASTRO was Venezuela's most prominent and persuasive political intellectual, and had been talked of as a possible president. He died suddenly in Chicago where he was at the end of a visiting professorship - ready, he said a few days earlier, to return to Venezuela to do battle.

Castro was a philosopher and historian. He took particular pleasure in his election in 1992-93 to what was, to him, the ironically named Simón Bolívar Professorship of Latin American Studies at Cambridge and a fellowship at Trinity. There and in Chicago, and in what leisure he could find in Caracas, he had been working on what would have been his great work, a history of political thinking in Spanish America.

He was born in 1943, and studied philosophy and Roman Law in Caracas and Paris. It was in Cam-

bridge, however, in the early Seventies, that he found his voice. He did so through the arcane route of a doctoral dissertation on "the history of the English jury as a fact-finding institution in the later middle ages".

The late medieval jury, he argued, remained a communal institution, but in the changing property relations of the period, respected social difference and took a sceptical line on truth. It coincided with the invention of the legal trust. Castro returned to Venezuela convinced that institutions of this kind, public spirited, independent, and uncorrupt, were England's distinctive contribution to public life, that F.W. Maitland (co-author of *History of English Law*, 1895) was their greatest historian, and that Cambridge was a model of what a society of trust could be.

Venezuela, he argued from his pro-

fessorial chairs and his influential presidency - some years later - of the International Institute for Advanced Studies in Caracas, was altogether less admirable. For nearly 200 years, the political class had been locked in pointless debate between an atavistic conception of honour, called republican, and one or another kind of abstract liberalism. The fantasy of the one, aristocratic and bellicose, imagined too much solidarity, the fantasy of the other, in dreams of lawyers and more recently, of economists influenced by the US, too little.

Venezuela's republicanism has been enshrined in the myth of its liberator, Simón Bolívar, and been protected by the army. At the end of another dictatorship, in 1958, civilians tried finally to remove the military from politics. They had some success. Rising incomes from oil bought

20 years of peace. In the later 1980s, however, the revenues shrank, exposed a large public debt, and brought a return to the army, and renewed paralysis. In 1992, the army decided that it must again save the republic from itself. Its two coups failed, but in December last year, out of prison and riding popular discontent, the leader of the first, Hugo Chávez, was elected president. The cycle appeared to have begun again.

Castro had been invited earlier that year to address the Congress (and through television, the country) on the problems ahead. His sense of these - moral, political, intellectual, above all emotional - was unparalleled. It was an arresting speech, and there were calls for him to enter the presidential race. But he was the first to see the irony in yet another merely oratorical triumph. He had often

reduced his foreign friends to helpless laughter in cruel imitation of a Latin American politician trying to demonstrate in English or French (he had a magical facility with language) what it was to belong to this or that party. He himself belonged to none.

He had friends from many sides, former guerrillas as well as wise liberals, and was a close confidant of the previous president. Even those opposed to him were forced to acknowledge his integrity. He augmented his small salary with visiting professorships and a popular Friday evening television programme on sport. Friends could be nervous in their laughter as he drove through the rain in his decomposing car, one hand working the wiper from the outside, the other raised in vivid gesture. His warnings to Congress have proved correct. The new pres-

ident is putting ex-soldiers into positions of power and threatening a constitutional coup.

Luis Castro had an astonishing understanding of people, events and ideas, and a mesmerising charm. His lectures, essays, and books - and for those in Venezuela and beyond who knew him, his wit and humanity - remain. His funeral in Caracas was a moment of great public as well as private grief.

GEOFFREY HAWTHORN

Luis Hernán Castro Leiva, political philosopher: born Caracas 23 February 1943; professor of Politics and Philosophy, Central University of Venezuela, and Professor at the Simón Bolívar University, Caracas 1978-99; married 1967 Beatrice Kervel (two sons), 1993 Carole Leav; died Chicago 8 April 1999.

## Olwen Price

THE WELSH mezzo-soprano Olwen Price was one of those singers who are invaluable to an opera company. She had a large repertoire of character roles (and one or two larger roles) in which she could be relied upon to give an excellent, idiomatic performance, while her voice and style could easily adapt to composers from Mozart to Menotti, from Verdi to Vaughan Williams. Although the greater part of her career was spent with Sadler's Wells Opera, she also sang for the BBC - once assisting the great tenor Beniamino Gigli in a recital - and with Welsh National Opera.

Price began to study singing privately at the age of 18 with W.J. Watkins in Merthyr Tydfil. She also studied at the University of Wales in Cardiff. In 1937 at the National Eisteddfod of Wales, held that year at Machynlleth, she won not only the prize for contralto solo, but the Blue Ribbon awarded to the best vocalist. She joined Sadler's Wells Opera during the war, when the company was homeless, leading an ambulant life around the country, occasionally appearing in London at the New Theatre. Another member of the company at that time was the Welsh character tenor David Tree, whom she later married. In 1947 Tree joined the newly formed Covent Garden Opera Company, as it was then called, where he gave over 1,000 performances before his retirement, while Price remained at Sadler's Wells.

Throughout the 1950s Price continued to appear, sometimes as often as 50 times a season. In 1950/51, for instance, she sang Marthe in Gounod's *Faust*; Mistress Quickly in Verdi's *Fuotstaff* (she also sang the same role in Vaughan Williams's *Sir John in Love*); Aunt Jane in Vaughan Williams's *Hugh the Drover*; La Frugola in Puccini's *Il tabarro*; and Zita in his *Giovanni Schicchi*; Mamma Lucia in Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*; Ludmilla in Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*; and Berta in Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*. Most of these, apart from Mamma Lucia, were comic roles, but Price was just as effective in tragic opera, as her Suzuki in *Madam Butterfly*, or Azucena, one of her finest interpretations, in Verdi's *Il trovatore*, which she sang during the 1961/62 season, prove.

Another of her best roles was Filippina, Tatiana's old Nurse in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, which she sang on several occasions. In 1963 Price made a deep impression as Maurya, the old woman at the centre of Vaughan Williams's *Riders to the Sea*, whose husband and six sons have all been drowned at sea off the Isle of Arran. The contralto-like tones at the bottom of her voice were particularly suited to this role; the composer himself was apparently very pleased with her performance, which many thought the finest she had given at Sadler's Wells. Other 20th-century operas in which she took part, both in 1954, were Menotti's *The Consul*, in which she sang John Sorel's Mother, and the world premiere of Lennox Berkeley's *Nelson*, where she sang Madame Serafin, the Neapolitan fortune-teller who foresees the death of Nelson during a reception at the Hamiltons' palazzo.

Price's last new role at Sadler's Wells, in 1959, was Madelon, the old woman in Giordano's *Andrea Chénier*, who offers her youngest, teenage son to fight for Revolutionary France, as his two elder brothers have already been killed. Then in 1961 she sang Azucena with WNO, and the following year Marcellina in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Berta in *The Barber of Seville*, Hedwige, the protagonist's wife, in Rossini's *Guil-laume Tell*, and Sofia, the mother of Oronte (the tenor) in Verdi's *I Lombardi alla prima crociata*, also for WNO, who brought the last named opera to Sadler's Wells in 1962.

ELIZABETH FORBES

Olwen Price, opera singer: born Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan 15 September 1903; married David Tree (died 1972; one daughter); died Merthyr Tydfil 6 April 1999.



# Sir Jamie Flanagan



Flanagan (left) in Belfast in 1974 with Patrick Malone, Police Commissioner of the Irish Republic

THE CAREER of Jamie Flanagan, the first Ulster Catholic to become head of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in 1973, is a demonstration of the complexity of Northern Irish life; a complexity often obscured by ideologically motivated distortions and unhistorical over-simplifications.

In 1934, the young Flanagan joined the RUC. In 1935, the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Sir James Craig, boasted of a Protestant parliament for a Protestant state. In such a context, Flanagan's decision to join the Northern Irish police force is difficult to fathom. But placed in a broader context, Flanagan's notion is rather more comprehensible.

Jamie Flanagan's father was a sergeant in the old Royal Irish Constabulary - a force which was by the time of the IRA campaign of 1919 to 1921 almost 80 per cent Catholic. Some of these Catholic policemen who had seen their colleagues cut down by the IRA harboured strongly anti-Republican sentiments, and were happy enough to serve the new Unionist government in Northern Ireland, established in 1921, which was committed at that time to preserving one-third of its places in the police force for Catholics.

The situation was complicated by the fact that Michael Collins, following his well-tried *modus operandi* in the South, attempted to place spies within the new Royal Ulster Constabulary. Nevertheless, even the strongly Orange Minister of Home Affairs in the Northern Ireland government, R. Dawson Bates, believed that there had to be a strong Catholic presence in the police - he made a point of supporting the promotion of Catholic officers as against the claims of more overtly political (in the Protestant and Unionist sense) candidates.

Dennis Donoghue's memoir *Warrenpoint* (1991) is a testimony to the view that, none the less, Catholic policemen suffered discrimination under the Stormont regime. Flanagan, however, does not seem to have expected this. At the point when he joined the force, 11 out of 19 Head Constables in Belfast were Catholic and Catholic sergeants comprised 40 out of a total of 108; the great difficulty was at constable level, only 85 out of 624 policemen were Catholics, partly an index of the Northern regime's drastically fading commitment to the relatively pluralist ideals of the 1920s; a fading commitment excused by reference to the irredentist and extravagantly Catholic ethos of the Irish state.

Flanagan, none the less, might well have expected to enjoy a speedy rise once he joined the RUC; and this is precisely what happened. In 1939 he was transferred from Downpatrick to Fermanagh

and made Sergeant; the same year he married Florence Acheson, a Protestant. In this era this was regarded as a rapid promotion and the pattern was to be sustained. In 1941 he was appointed Head Constable in Londonderry; in 1942 he became a District Inspector and was transferred to the security control unit which had sensitive wartime responsibilities; at the time there was an upsurge of IRA activity within the city linked with support for Nazi Germany.

In 1945, Flanagan was seconded for

In June 1970, he was appointed Assistant Chief Constable; in July 1973 he was appointed CBE, becoming Chief Constable in November of that year. In June of 1975 Flanagan received a knighthood, retiring a year later in April 1976. Having been targeted by Republicans whilst attending mass, he was forced to retire to London.

Flanagan's period as Chief Constable was a highly controversial one. It coincided with the Ulster workers' strike of 1974 and the Provisional IRA's

temporary ceasefire in 1975. Certainly, there were those - and they included senior members of the power-sharing executive which was forced out of office by the strike - who, not without reason, felt that the RUC did not act vigorously enough against the strikers.

It should be recalled, however, that the army, and not the police, enjoyed primacy in security policy in this period.

On the other hand, during the ceasefire of 1975, there were those who felt that the RUC was being politically manipulated so that it would go easy on the IRA. Flanagan was never entirely comfortable in these treacherous waters. He was most definitely not a "political" policeman. A spruce, well-groomed, outgoing and approachable man, with vigorous powers of expression - both in voice and on paper - he preferred to confine himself to matters of policing; he was always, in particular, highly sensitive to the morale of the men in a force which was to lose 299 members in the course of the Troubles. Flanagan's exceptional humanity was always evident in his treatment of grieving families - for whom he did much in a practical, as well as emotional, sense.

Jamie Flanagan avoided political comment, but he did feel that some in the hierarchy of his own church displayed a certain coolness towards him.

*Flanagan's period as Chief Constable of the RUC was a controversial one. He was never comfortable in these treacherous waters*

with the British mission to Greece and he served there until 1952. At this point, he was appointed MBE. He returned to the RUC, working in the celebrated B Division of West Belfast in the late 1950s, at the time of the IRA's least successful campaign; in 1961 he achieved the rank of County Inspector. Flanagan was appointed OBE on the eve of the outbreak of the Troubles in June 1968.

James Bernard Flanagan, police officer: born 15 January 1914; MBE 1952, OBE 1968, CBE 1973; County Inspector RUC 1961-70, Assistant Chief Constable 1970-73, Chief Constable 1973-76; Kt 1975; married 1938 Florence Acheson (two sons, one daughter); died 4 April 1999.

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

FORBES, Jan, nee Andrews. Widow of Sir Hugh Forbes, darling mother of Sarah Ingle and grandmother of Joseph. Died peacefully in the Royal Marsden Hospital on 15 April 1999. Service of thanksgiving at St Mary's on Paddington Green, St Mary's Square, W2, on Friday 23 April at 2pm. No flowers please. Donations if wished, payable to Royal Marsden Hospital, sent to Fundraising Dept, Royal Marsden Hospital, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5PT.

For Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, a memorial), telephone 0171-261 2012 or fax to 0171-261 2010; notices are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements must be submitted in writing and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

### FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES

Mr P. C. Crowne and Miss P. M. Lonsdale. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Charles and Beatrice Crowne, of Burnham Market, Norfolk, and Penny, daughter of John and Moya Lonsdale, of Cambridge.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Alan Beith MP, 56; Professor Derek Bowett QC, former president, Queens' College, Cambridge, 72; Mr Michael Brandon, actor, 54; Mr Ray Brooks, actor, 60; Sir Geoffrey Chippierfield, former civil servant, 66; The Right Rev Frederick Darwent, former Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, 72; Mr Richard de Lange, chairman and managing director, Philips Electronics UK, 54; Mr Sebastian Faulks, writer, 46; Miss Nina Foch, actress, 75; Mr Graeme Fowler, cricketer, 42; Mr John Eliot Gardiner, conductor, 56; Mr Maurice Gugelmin, racing driver, 36; Mr Paul Heiney, writer and broadcaster, 50; Mr Giles Henderson, Senior Partner, Slaughtert and May, 57; Miss Louise

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Napoleon III (Charles Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte), Emperor of France, 1808; Adolf Hitler, dictator, 1889; Harold Lloyd, comedian, 1893; Joan Miro, abstract painter, 1893; Antonio (Canale) Canaleto, painter, 1768; Abraham (Bram) Stoker, theatre manager and author of *Dracula*, 1912; Christian X, King of Denmark, 1917. On this day: Oliver Cromwell dissolved the Long Parliament, 1653; Captain James Cook discovered New South Wales, Australia, 1770; Soviet troops entered Berlin, 1945; President Nixon announced that 150,000 troops would be withdrawn from Vietnam, 1970. Today is the Feast Day of St Agnes of Montepulciano, St Caedwalla, St Hildegarde, St Marcellinus of Embrun, St Marcan or Marian of Auxerre and St Peter of Verona.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Prince Edward, Patron, Scottish Badminton Union, attends the finals of the European Junior Badminton Championships at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, and, as Chairman, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, holds a lunch at St James's Palace in support of the Guild Millennium Encounter, a joint venture between the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the President's Award. Colonel Mrs Mary McArdle, President of Ireland also attends. The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, the Construction Industry Trust for Youth, attends a piano recital at Drapers' Hall, London EC2.

### LECTURES

National Gallery: Rebecca Lyons, "North and South: the Leighton, Cimabue's Celebrated Madonna" carried in Procession through the Streets of Florence", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Sarah Bowles, "Some Pieces of Tudor and Stuart Furniture", 2pm. Tate Gallery: James Hoard, "Modern British Narrative", 1pm.

### APPOINTMENTS

Mr Justice Mance, to be Lord Justice of Appeal. Mr John Wright, to be part-time Regional Chairman of the Mental Health Review Tribunal for the West Midlands and North West Region.

## Libel action was not an abuse of process

AN ACTION for libel brought by a Member of Parliament, the subject matter of which had been investigated by the House of Commons, should not be struck out as an abuse of process.

The Court of Appeal dismissed the defendant's appeal against the refusal to strike out the plaintiff's claim for damages for libel.

The plaintiff, a former Member of Parliament, commenced proceedings for libel against the defendant, complaining of a broadcast made by the defendant in the course of a television documentary programme in January 1997, in which the defendant accused the plaintiff of seeking and accepting from the defendant cash for questions asked by him in the House of Commons.

Those allegations were the subject of an investigation by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards (PCS), the results of which were adopted by the Committee on Standards and Privileges (CSP) in a report which was subsequently approved by Parliament.

The PCS found that the plaintiff had received cash from the defendant for lobbying services. Desmond Browne QC and Adrienne Page (Crockers Oswald Hickson) for the plaintiff; George Carman QC, James Price QC and Heather Rogers (D.J. Freeman) for the defendant; Ross Cranston QC, Solicitor General, and Philip Sales (Treasury Solicitor) for the Speaker and Authorities of the House of Commons as interveners.

Lord Woolf MR said that the following issues arose on the appeal: whether the libel action constituted a collateral attack

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

Hamilton v al Fayed  
Court of Appeal  
(Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Laws)  
26 March 1999

on a decision of Parliament within the principle in *Hunter v Chief Constable of the West Midlands* (1982) AC 528; and whether the inquiry by the PCS, the CSP's report, and the approval of it by the House of Commons, together or individually, constituted "proceedings in Parliament" for the purposes of article 9 of the Bill of Rights 1689, or of any wider principle which might protect such proceedings from direct or indirect judicial interference.

The principle enunciated in *Hunter* was a general principle evolved to prevent that kind of abuse of process inherent in the re-litigation of an issue already once fairly and fully litigated in a competent court. The court, therefore, had to judge the procedural quality of the earlier proceedings. However, in relation to the procedures adopted by the PCS, the CSP and the House of Commons, the court was forbidden by article 9 of the Bill of Rights to undertake such a process.

Further, where either House of Parliament or a committee of Parliament enquired into and passed judgment upon some matter external to the

House's affairs, the court was not thereby prohibited from looking into the same matter in the course of later defamation proceedings based on a publication outside Parliament.

The inauguration of the PCS and the CSP and their subsequent actions, the inquiry, the reports, and the resolution of the House amounted individually and collectively to "proceedings in Parliament" whether for the purposes of article 9 of the Bill of Rights or of any wider rule which enjoined the protection of such proceedings.

However, the vice to which article 9 was directed, so far as the courts were concerned, was the inhibition of freedom of speech and debate in Parliament that might flow from any condemnation by the courts themselves. The position was quite different when it came to criticisms by other persons of what was said in Parliament. Accordingly, to allow the plaintiff's action to proceed would not contravene article 9.

There was a wider principle, namely that the courts would not challenge or assault, by any order of their own, an assertion of authority issued by Parliament pursuant to Parliament's own procedures. However, that principle did not of itself bar the plaintiff's libel action, which involved no such assertion by the court. The court should only decline to hear the plaintiff's libel claim if it were persuaded that the possibility of a result being arrived at which was inconsistent with the conclusions of the PCS would be to undermine the authority of Parliament.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

### CHESS

JON SPEELMAN

IT WAS High Noon - or rather, High 9am - in Cologne on Sunday as the two top teams, Porz from Cologne and my own team Solingen, both still with a perfect 14 match wins, fought out in the final round of the Bundesliga.

Sadly, we lost, by 5-3. The Porz captain Wilfried Hilgert and I sprung a surprise on us by secreting two players, Ulf Andersson and John Van der Wiel, in his home during the Saturday match before unleashing them on us.

He also always arranges for Rafael Vaganian to play White against us. Last year I managed to hold him but this time green Piket had a bad day and after some somewhat limp draws on the other boards, just before the time control we were one down with only the two boards still going.

See diagram. The game staggered on: 38 g4? Bxg4 (38...Nd3+! 39 Kh1 Nch3! 40 g5 Nf2 was mate) 39 Bxg5 Nf3+ 40 Kg3 Qxg5 41 Bxg4 Qh4+ 42 Kc3 Rf8+ 43 Ke4 Qxg4+ 44 Nf4.

Black: Loek Van Wely



White: Matthew Sadler

With the match position desperate, Matthew heroically spurned the draw with 44 Ke3 Qg3+ 45 Ke4 etc. 44...Rc8+ 47 Kb6 f3 48 Ra7? He could have tried 48 Bx3 Qx3 49 Ra7 48...Rb8+ 49 Ka5? 49 Kc3 was still a draw. Matthew had missed Loek's next, which threatens mate. 49...Qg5! 50 Rg7+ Qxg7 51 Qxg7+ Krg7 52 Bx3. and Van Wely eventually won the game. When Yusupov could later only draw, Sadler's bravery was retrospectively validated.

### CREATIVITY

LOKI

SUGGESTIONS WERE sought for appropriate forms of transport. Circus equine artists: deux-chevaux (Bill Richardson), Rupert Murdoch: solar-powered car; Scrooge: ghost train; Barry Manilow: Conkord (Derek Holmes), Chancellors of the Exchequer: always take taxis; Della Smith: by catamarine; Jeff & Marg Thomas: Voyeur: a peep-hole carrier; shipwrecked sailors: on a barge built for two; the Lone Ranger: a Keemo Saab (Peter Thomas). The British Raj: a Mensaab; Ronnie Biggs: dog-gem car; Buddy Holly: that'll be the Daewoo (Tony Brandon); Buddy Holly: on Pegasus; Ozzy: a works motorbike; Dick Turpin: a tandem delivery bike; a wifelet: a Bathyscope; United Arab Emirates: the Emir Space Station (Bruce Birchall).

Colonic irrigationist: a purge-oh; Mafiosi with poor memory: Don-que? (Sue Johnson). Jack and Jill: a cable car (Joan Vinnicombe).

WWF Committee: Fiat Panda (Mary Brooker), Vaughan Williams: VW: the BFG: a

BMW, a Beautiful Magic Whizz-banger (Claire Dalby). Good Catholic couples rely on a cycle (Jennifer Moore-Blunt). John Dankworth: a Clio (R. J. Pickles). The Chieftains: tanks. P. E. ministers: Jacques Delors (Alex). Hiawatha: a Fiat Bravo (Shirley Edmundson).

Michael Fish: a nice'n sunny. Dr Faustus: a Mercy. Hades! (Peter Houghton). Jonathan Aitken: Fraud. Caughtina (Phil Hellen). Paddy Ashdown: the Central Line (J. R. Gore). A Russian novelist: a Four-door Dostoyevsky; an American President: a Three-door Roosevelt. Audrey Forbes-Hamilton: a la-di-da: my maternal grandfather: a Ma'zDa (T. M. O'Grady). Medusa: Dodge Viper and an AC Cobra (Michael Bryant-Mole).

Sun-worshippers: Tandems; chefs: fork-lift trucks (Maguy Higgs). Melina: Mercury; an unknown Welshman: a daewoo? (Colin O'Hare). The House of Lords: a Siesta. Hugh Grant: a Hurley-Davidson (James A. Kelly). Bomb disposal officer: a Grenada (Matthew White). Wordsworth.

Daf, King Arthur: Morgan (Andrew Duncan). A Constable: a haywain: a drug-user: a smack (Nicholas E. Gough).

Rada teacher: stagecoach: drug-dealer: speed-boat (Tim Stone). Davy Crockett: a Vauxhall Frontera (Clive Mosharn). Kleenex salesmen: by choo-choo: Mrs Hague: a fiord fiesta (Eric Dunkley). Strip cartoonists: by balloon (John Pickin). Leyton football fans: the Orient Express; Mephistopheles: a Helicopter (Mike Gifford). Beelzebub (B.B.). Bus de Keaton (PT). Attila the Honda (M.G.). Alf: a Romeo (Matthew John).

Bill Richardson, Jeff & Marg Thomas and Derek Holmes win Chambers Dictionary of Quotations. Imaginative uses for sticks of rhubarb to Loki. Valhalla@binternet.com or Creativity. Features. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL by 28 April. The Creativity Readers' Group. Allies in Wonderland, will hold an afternoon Creativity Challenge on Sunday 6 June in a pub function room in Paddington, London (see for details).

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

oversight, n. Such is her woolly style that her editors are guilty of one oversight after another. One might assume that, in her positive sense of the

### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

oversight, n. Such is her woolly style that her editors are guilty of one oversight after another. One might assume that, in her positive sense of the

word, this is an American coinage; but, no, as a word for both supervision and neglect, it goes back to the 15th century.

The book does, however, have a splendid oversight by Salinger. He once failed to smoke salmon in his chimney, instead of making one of his many trips to Bloomingdale's.



Compensation claims are bankrupting society, says a report. So who takes responsibility? By Lynne Wallis

# You can't always get what you want

A report published yesterday, attacking Britain's movement towards the compensation culture of the US, says the £8.8bn paid annually in damages to victims of accidents and trauma must be reduced. The right-wing Centre for Policy Studies think-tank says that the trend towards huge payouts is threatening Britons' capacity to take risks and innovate, and is damaging human relationships. "Courting Mistrust" applauds the relatives of those who died in the Aberfan disaster of 1969 for not launching prosecutions. Eileen Dallaglio, a bereaved mother and member of the Marchioness Action Group, is astounded by the report. Mrs Dallaglio, whose daughter Francesca, 19, died when the Marchioness was sunk on the Thames in 1989, failed to secure any compensation for bereavement, trauma or financial loss, though many families were awarded £1,000-£7,000 for bereavement under the terms of the Fatal Accidents Act of 1976.

Mrs Dallaglio was initially offered £5,000 by the owners of the *Bouabellie*, the sand-dredger that collided with the *Marchioness*. The sum was increased to £19,000 and, three days before court, £50,000 was offered under a condition known as "calderbank", if the judge awarded less than the offer, it is withdrawn and nothing is payable. The judge awarded £16,000, calculated on the money Francesca would have made as a ballet dancer, and "gifts" she would have made to her parents. Eileen therefore got nothing. "Hillsborough set a precedent," she says. "It was deemed that you can only suffer psychological shock if you view the aftermath within an hour of the deaths. This clearly is utter nonsense. The psychological shock took me nine years to get over. When you suffer a tremendous shock, and what can only be described as pathological grief, it renders you incapable of thinking for yourself, people lose jobs and livelihoods. Yet one month after my daughter's death I had to complete a statement of claim, listing expenditure such as the cost of the



Vincenzo and Eileen Dallaglio: received no compensation at all for the loss of their daughter Francesca

coffin and the cost of my daughter's ballet lessons."

When, two-and-a-half years after the *Marchioness* tragedy, it emerged that the hands of the deceased had been removed for fingerprinting purposes, Eileen Dallaglio's husband had a heart attack and he was forced to resign from a senior lectureship.

"He worked as a butler to pay the mortgage," says his wife. "And yet police officers affected by disasters retire on their compensation - even though they are paid to do a job that carries an element of risk. It should not be necessary for emotionally crippled people to fight for compensation. The boat was in-

sured to the tune of £8m. No money could ever compensate anybody for loss of life, but why bother insuring lives if the money isn't paid out?"

"Courting Mistrust" attacks not only damages claims, but also fees paid to lawyers, particularly those who work on a "no win, no fee" basis. But for many who seek compensation the legal fees are paid out of damages, however paltry.

Karen Newman, 37, was awarded £10,500 under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CICS) after a savage assault by her brother-in-law, but £3,500 was eaten up by fees. Karen failed to win costs, and got no payment for trauma. She no longer works, as the nerve end-

ings in her hands are too damaged. Her brother-in-law committed suicide a year ago.

"I've had to be strong because I've got children," says Karen. "But I can't see myself in a normal working environment again because I don't trust people... I don't even trust my husband 100 per cent, because you can't after what I've been through. I'd known my brother-in-law for 24 years, and look what he did to me. At least I know he won't do it again."

"But it was still decided that it was just my physical health that suffered. I should have got more. People should get compensation because of the loss of earnings, if not-

ing else. You have to pay the mortgage somehow."

Tamara Wilder, of Victim Support, says the current tariff of payouts under the CICS (which awards £30m a year) is too inflexible. "It's literally so much for an arm, so much for a rape," she explains. "It's like a menu. It can work, but there needs to be room for individual cases to be judged."

When a victim is awarded money under the CICS, their benefits may be adjusted, and some benefits may be eroded to nothing. Wilder adds: "This is all wrong, when you consider it's supposed to be compensation to a victim of a crime, not living costs."

## The chairmen of the bored

Tasha spends a weekend locked in the house - and decides to become Ally McBeal. By Cayte Williams

WHEN THE students moved into their huge, rambling house in Fallowfield, they thought it had "limitless possibilities". Not any more. There's only so much squalor a student can take.

"The house is horrible," says Tasha. "Even the boys think it's nasty now. When we moved in, it felt like it hadn't been lived in for 20 years, but we didn't mind. Now none of us can stand it any more. It's so grim. The landlord hates us, the living room's cold and we can't make out-going calls on the telephone." Rather than being a home, it is, as Tasha says, "functional. We sleep and work here, and that's it."

Over Easter, both Tasha and Alistair did time in the house on their own. "I was supposed to be working on essays," says Alistair, "but I was just sitting there staring, or

wandering around the house. I feel like I've been in prison."

Over the Bank Holiday, Tasha inadvertently locked herself in the house. "I didn't have my keys, so I couldn't go out," she explains. "I couldn't phone anyone and the only thing to eat was toast." What started out as a grim experience actually turned out well. She took stock of her current situation.

"I realised that I hadn't been on my own for months," she says, "and my whole life is more sorted now as a result of that weekend. I wrote a list of stuff to do. I've been through all my bills and bank statements, and now my room's tidy and my head's clear. It's weird, because when I used to come home I would go into someone else's room and irritate them. It never occurred to me to go into my own room and get

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



EASTER BREAK, WEEK 15 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

on with things."

Tasha and Alistair have become really good friends. She came back from visiting her family and when she returned she found the blank-

staring and essay-writing Alistair catatonic with boredom.

"He keeps trying to distract me. Now I'm really bored as well, because when you think about it, studying's not interesting, is it? He's getting through his essays, but it's taking twice as long."

Tasha's seriously thinking about changing her course. One of the life decisions she made during her lock-in was to apply to do law next year rather than stick to management. "I think that if you have any doubts about your degree by the third year, you should change. Otherwise you'll regret it," she explains. "I'm looking at Manchester and London colleges, and if I don't get in at least I can say I tried."

So why law? Something to do with Ally McBeal, perhaps? Tasha scoffs. "Ally McBeal's a bit dizzy, but

I would love to have loads of money, cool clothes, go to bars, drink champagne and have business lunches..." But it's not the glamour which attracts her, rather the David and Goliath thing.

"I love it when little people win against big companies," she continues. "The more you can piss off massive companies, the better. I like the idea of protecting someone's interests, but there are so many different areas you can go into with law and I want a degree that leads you to do what you really want. I'd love to be a barrister."

She's just taken on a rather lowly job. "I'm answering the phones at Yorkshire Electricity. It's in this huge building with loads of people on the phone, and I'm dealing with callers moaning on about their problems."

ROBBIE  
studying  
economicsLEONA  
was studying  
mathsDAVID  
studying  
managementIAN  
studying  
geographyTASH  
studying  
managementALISTAIR  
studying  
managementROSIE  
studying  
French

### MANDELSON: THE BIOGRAPHY

## The truth was 'out'. And so were the knives

Continued from page 1  
Clapham was harmonious and happily domestic. Mandelson commanded the study he supposedly shared with Ashby, and would sometimes irritate Ashby and Robertson by breaking certain house rules: if he returned home early to find Jackie, the cleaner, still at work, he would divert her from her other duties to do his ironing.

The most dramatic event of Mandelson's first year in Clapham Manor Street was the birth of Peter Ashby's child. Ashby had had an affair with a female colleague at the TUC; they had gone on holiday together and she had unexpectedly become pregnant. Ashby was determined to take his full share of responsibility as a parent, and remained in close contact with her throughout the pregnancy. Mandelson reacted with utter calm; the pregnancy did nothing to damage his relationship with Ashby.

One Sunday evening in the summer of 1983, about a month before the baby was due and as

Ashby was sharing supper with Mandelson and Robertson, the mother-to-be came to the house for supper, anxious that she was about to give birth. Though her three friends were sceptical, they drove off to University College Hospital, where it rapidly became clear that the mother-to-be had been right. Within an hour or so the trio were inspecting the infant who was to play an important part in Mandelson's, as well as

Ashby's, life for many years to come, and to whom Mandelson became wholly devoted - playing almost as great a part in the boy's life as his parents.

Mandelson and Ashby have never spoken about their relationship, or why they split up at the end of the decade. But, according to friends, one factor was the time and effort spent by Mandelson on his political career: Ashby felt that his own work was overshadowed and at

times inhibited by Mandelson's Labour Party role. More crucial, however, were Ashby's anxieties about his son growing up with his father in a relationship with a man. Ashby is now married. All three friends remain on warm terms today.

Mandelson believed that when on 27 October he was "outed" as a homosexual for the fourth or fifth time, this time by Matthew Parris, it was like a breach in the dam which had

hitherto protected him from a torrent of interest in his personal or "non-political" life. Because the baying media had not been placated by any admission about his sexuality, it had remained ravenous for another confession. Thus he became vulnerable to the exposure of what would otherwise have been a forgivable lapse. That was surely an underestimate of the controversy the loan would have caused, whatever the cir-

cumstances. But it would be baffling in hindsight, even to some of Mandelson's greatest sympathisers in Downing Street, that while an infinitely more destructive nemesis was about to overtake him, so many man-hours had been deployed on the much less dangerous question of his sexuality - a matter of commendably little concern to the Prime Minister. When he resigned, Avila was in London, on a break from his

Japanese studies in Tokyo. When the Blairs invited Mandelson to join them for a family supper at Chequers that evening, they suggested that he bring Avila with him. Mandelson did, driving up in a borrowed car to Buckinghamshire. They had a drink, supper (breaking off to watch his resignation interviews on the television news), stayed the night, and returned to London around noon.

### TOMORROW MANDELSON: THE EARLY YEARS



Inspired by 'Round the Horne', his older brother Miles nicknamed Peter "Sir Osmold Smish, the Italian Mind-your-own-businessman". Miles said: "He

was very independent, very self-sufficient. He didn't need his big brother to do anything for him."

### MANDELSON'S PART IN THE COALITION THAT NEVER WAS

AT THE turn of the year 1995-6 Mandelson had been among those who attended a secret meeting at Lord Irvine's handsome house in north London. The Liberal Democrats were Ashdown, Lord Holme, Bob MacLennan, Archie Kirkwood and Menzies Campbell. On the Labour side, besides Donald Dewar, Mandelson and Irvine himself, were Tony Blair and Robin Cook. This was an interesting selection: the gathering was heavy with Scots; even more important, all the Labour participants were by now either open to, or outright enthusiasts for, electoral reform.

The encounter reached three conclusions. The first

was the Cook-McLennan committee on constitutional reform. The second was to work towards a Lib-Lab coalition in the Scottish parliament in the event of Labour getting no overall majority, or an unworkably small one. And the third was that the two parties would strive not to damage each other more than was necessary in the coming general election. But a more radical agenda was also taking shape. Blair and Ashdown would often get carried away with the limitless possibilities of reuniting Labour and Liberalism, but would agree that Mandelson and Holme were to be left to examine practicalities.

The subsequent loose ac-

cord was limited to two important elements, neither of them public. One was the electoral "non-aggression pact". The other was a private understanding that Blair would invite the Liberal Democrats into a coalition, not only in a hung parliament, but if he secured a "small overall majority" - accepted by the Liberal Democrats as anything up to around 50 seats. The Liberal Democrats wanted a written coalition agreement including, but not limited to, Commons electoral reform, to which Blair would now become personally committed - at the very least by promising to campaign for the conclusions of what was to become the Jenkins com-

mission. The Lib Dems would also require a commitment on education spending and the dropping of the second question in the Scottish devolution referendum on the new Edinburgh parliament's tax-raising powers. The Liberal Democrats would have minority representation at every level of government. The Labour team were talking of "two-plus" cabinet seats; the Liberal Democrats of "three plus".

Ashdown and Menzies Campbell were the obvious candidates for Cabinet entry; but the Liberal Democrats argued that a place should be found for a third - probably the respected Lib Dem Deputy Leader Alan

Beith. The Labour landslide of 1 May, and the Liberal Democrats' own wholly unexpected tally of 46 seats, was an outcome neither Blair nor Ashdown had bargained for. Shortly before noon on polling day, Ashdown spoke to Blair. At this point, the two leaders thought that a larger than expected majority might increase the possibility of Labour's "doing things" with the Liberal Democrats. Nevertheless, Ashdown said that if a coalition could not be made to work, a joint cabinet committee might be a possible substitute, and first stage, towards a wider agreement.

By the next morning, however, Blair's mood appeared to have changed. He

was still keen to emphasise his determination to move towards closer co-operation with the Liberal Democrats. But he was much less positive about the idea of coalition, at least in his first Cabinet. This was not such a disappointment to Ashdown. The scale of not only Labour's but the Lib Dems' electoral success had taken him aback. Indeed, the Labour landslide had given rise to some worrying thoughts in Ashdown's mind. Was a coalition what the British people had voted for? Nevertheless, there are grounds for thinking that Blair and Ashdown have since wondered whether they had not "missed a moment" on 2 May 1997.

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صكرا من الامم





A good practice to get into

# HEALTH

A good practice to get into



You want your kids to be close, but having them too close together may cause problems. By Raj Persaud

## One at a time, children

**M**ost couples planning a family wonder how long a gap to leave between their children - assuming that they want more than one child. Increasingly, postnatal birth until later in life, there is a chance that they are trying to have late pregnancies close together, to ensure that the family is complete before the biological clock ticks.

But could close spacing between children be medically and psychologically damaging? Research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* should give pause for thought to couples planning to squeeze a family into a few years.

In the largest study of its kind ever conducted, 173,205 births in Utah during the last seven years were examined by Dr Bao-Ping Zhu and colleagues from the Michigan Department of Community Health, investigating what is the optimal spacing between children in order to minimise their medical risks. The study found the best interval between pregnancies, for preventing adverse perinatal events such as low birth weight, excessively small babies and pre-term delivery, was between 18 and 23 months.



A two-year gap between children is likely to be best for psychological reasons, but few parents are aware of the issues involved in birth spacing

One theory to account for this finding is that after each pregnancy, uterine blood flow increases temporarily, but it probably declines gradually over time. So this, and other foetal growth-supporting adaptation to pregnancy in the mother's body, could benefit the next baby only if not too long a gap is left between births.

Too short a gap is a risk factor for perinatal problems because the stress of living after an excessively dependent baby is thought to place such a psychological stress on the mother's body that it interferes with the growth of the next foetus. It is already known that babies born to mothers in emotional turmoil are more prone to complications. They are even more likely to grow into adults who suffer from psychiatric disorders, including schizophrenia, and this may be the result of the lowered uterine blood flow.

Another theory is that each pregnancy depletes the mother's nutritional resources, which then need adequate time between pregnancies before they can be restored. But while physicians may argue that the medical risks mean mothers should opt for a two-year gap, psychologists suggest that a birth spacing of at least two years may be preferable, in order to enhance the psychological future of the children.

When babies are closely spaced, child-rearing obligations dominate, ensuring that parents give less undivided concentration to any one child. How much attention a child gets in the early years, from adults and older children, has repeatedly been found to predict future intelligence.

For example, the fact that the Japanese have the highest national average IQ has been partly attributed to their child-rearing practice of holding their babies much more than we do in the West.

More support for the importance of birth spacing in determining IQ comes from the extreme case of children with no birth gap at all, and twins and triplets do indeed score lower on IQ tests. But there is a debate as to whether this is due to intrauterine problems of several babies competing for nutrients from an overworked placenta, or the stretching of parental attention once the children are born. Brian Powell, a sociologist at Indiana University, and a world authority on the effects of spacing on subsequent behaviour, has calculated that among high school students with two siblings, one whose siblings are born within two years is more than 50 per cent more likely to drop out and have poor exam performance than a student whose siblings are more than two years older or younger.

The classic argument against these spacing theories is that poorer families tend to have more closely spaced children, and that it is the

poverty that is producing these negative effects. But Powell and colleagues have taken this into account in their research, and found the negative effect of spacing is a factor separate from socio-economic status.

Philippe Rushton, a Canadian psychologist, goes much further, suggesting that birth spacing influences altruism and respect for the law in children. The contention is

fore be characteristic of closely spaced children. However, Rushton has tended to produce evidence of these differences only between societies that may have characteristic birth-spacing sequences, and such contrasts in altruism and law-abiding behaviour could arise for other reasons.

Yet Elizabeth Gibbs and her psychologist colleagues at the University of Vermont did indeed find that widely spaced children took more turns when playing together, and they seemed to have more fun with each other than narrowly spaced siblings. Psychologists tend to agree that siblings born closer together have more intense relationships with each other than average, often characterised by more arguments.

The danger of being born far apart is that older siblings miss out on much of the growing up of their younger siblings. But there is an advantage in very wide spacing for the intellectual development of the youngest child. IQ in siblings follows a declining gradient with every subsequent birth. This phenomenon is usually explained by diminishing parental attention per infant, with each child's arrival.

But a landmark study of birth order and IQ conducted on 350,000 Dutch young men in the Seventies

found that as family size increased beyond about five children, the intelligence of the youngest child began to rise. This odd finding is explained by the idea that once you get to about five children in a family, the first child has reached an age at which it can add to the intellectual atmosphere in the home. This is in comparison with the situation of the youngest child in a smaller family.

The presence of older children, who will themselves give a baby attention without being so dependent on parents as to take their concentration off the new child, means that an old enough sibling adds to, rather than detracts from, the intellectual stimulation a new baby enjoys. This logic, carried to its extreme, suggests that if a couple space two children 15 years apart (highly unusual, but not unheard of), the second child enters a home with a climate of potential stimulation even higher than that encountered by most first-borns.

While all the evidence so far points to a two-year gap between children being the best for psychological reasons, and the medical "window" is 18 to 23 months, no research has yet been conducted on parents who are aware of these birth-gap issues. Perhaps the real benefit of such research is that parents becoming aware of the findings could make a conscious effort to compensate medically and psychologically for the inherent problems of short spacing, and could then find that the adverse effects apply much less powerfully to their families.

The writer is a consultant psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital in south London

**Siblings born within two years of each other are 50 per cent more likely to drop out than those separated by more than 24 months**

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

WHEN I was having a cervical smear test the nurse called in a doctor to look at my cervix, and he said I had some harmless follicles there. I am now terribly worried that these might become cancerous. What are they?

These are Nabothian follicles (or cysts), which are completely benign. They are small, spherical cysts that form on the cervix when the tiny glands that normally secrete mucus get blocked up. No treatment is necessary. The follicles cause no problems and are so common that they should be considered to be normal.

MY GRANDMOTHER (my mother's mother) died of breast cancer at the age of 73, and a distant cousin has also had breast cancer. My mother (now 75) and my sisters (age 51 and 46) are all well. Does this family history increase my risk of developing breast cancer? This is the commonest form of cancer affecting women, but inherited breast cancer accounts for only 1 in 20 of all cases. Families that carry one of the recently discovered genes that cause inherited breast cancer usually have several family members with breast cancer or other cancers (ovary, uterus or colon). An important factor is that inherited breast cancer often appears before the age of 50. Because your mother and sisters are all healthy, and there do not seem to be any other related cancers in your family, your risk is likely to be much the same as for any other woman of your age. You can minimise your risk by eating a low-fat diet and not drinking much alcohol. Regular mammograms after the age of 50 will not prevent breast cancer, but will improve your survival chances if you do develop it.

CAN LASER pointers cause damage to the eye? The beam of concentrated light that is emitted is visible over a long distance. Pointers used by lecturers and teachers operate at very low power. The human eye protects itself by blinking when exposed to bright light and this would limit any potential damage. An inadvertent sweep of the light of such a pointer across a person's eyes could cause temporary flash blindness, similar to the effects of looking at a camera flash. The greatest danger would be from staring directly at a laser pointer. There have been several cases of bus drivers being distracted by these devices, and the risk of accidents is probably greater than the risk of visual damage. There have also been reports of "laser louts" shining pointers at footballers.

Please send your questions to *A Question of Health*, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-393 2182; or e-mail to [health@independent.co.uk](mailto:health@independent.co.uk). Dr Kavalier regrets that he is unable to respond personally to questions

## Listen here, son, just get some sleep

**DER BILL**, I have only three words to say to you and I am sure you know what they are. Yes, you guessed it - get more sleep. OK, make that four words: please get more sleep.

Yesterday marked the start of your last term at school and you know I know that what happens between now and the end of June... well, it matters.

People always say that today is the first day of the rest of your life. I know it's a cliché, but for teenagers like you, who are about to sit A-levels in few weeks' time, it has a special resonance. As we enter the final weeks we can just agree a few ground rules to make sure you hit

that finishing-tape at full speed? You know that chronic sleep deprivation is now a recognised medical problem among teenagers. You don't? That just proves my point. I've told you often enough but you have been too zonked to register it.

It is a simple biological fact that we need less sleep as we grow older. As a teenager, you may feel ancient when you prop your eyes open in the mornings, but you are not yet old. And you are still growing, outwards if not upwards, which takes energy. You cannot expect to go clubbing all night and flirt intelligently with Tess of the d'Urbervilles by day.

You know the rules: in bed by 11 pm at the latest on schooldays, in re-

### HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

turn for which you get a late pass on Fridays and Saturdays. These last few weeks are going to be tough - there is no way round that - but that

doesn't mean that you are not allowed any fun at all.

I know that sometimes when you look at your books and your piles of notes, you think about the weeks ahead and you feel overwhelmed. Nobody ever said that revising for exams was easy. You know how I always quote the Alcoholics Anonymous line: one day at a time.

Break the work up into bite-size chunks, then settle down and take it piece by piece. That way it will seem more manageable. When you are climbing a mountain, never look up or down, just concentrate on the next step.

Umm - on the subject of fun, could we just have another word

about booze and drugs? Drinking and revising don't mix, so could we please limit the former for these next few weeks?

You know how I have always urged openness about drugs, since ignorance kills as often as the drugs themselves. But there were some rather disturbing brain scans of long-term ecstasy users published in *The Lancet* a few months ago. They were the first direct evidence that there is a price to pay for ecstasy use. I would rather you didn't sit down to your exams next month with fried brains.

I don't mind fry-ups - or gigantic fish finger, bacon and cheese sandwiches followed by midnight ke-

babs. Just so long as you are not going hungry. Do eat fruit: its vitamins help your heart and your head. And do stretch those lanky legs a bit - not just to the pub and back, but over the park occasionally. Exercise is a great cure for depression, mental fatigue and world-weariness - and it oxygenates the brain cells, too.

Of course, I want you to work. I want you to succeed, too. I don't mind how well you do but you do have to do your best - that will be enough for me. However, I don't want you to worry. That is destructive, pernicious and undermining. You do the work and I'll do the worrying. And good luck, old son.

LOVE, DAD

Before your next visit to the dentist you might want to chew on this.



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Their subjects are industrial landmarks – blast-furnaces, water towers, mineheads – photographed with integrity and objectivity. Through their works and teaching Bernhard and Hilla Becher have inspired a gifted generation of German artists. By JasorOddie

# The New Unromantics

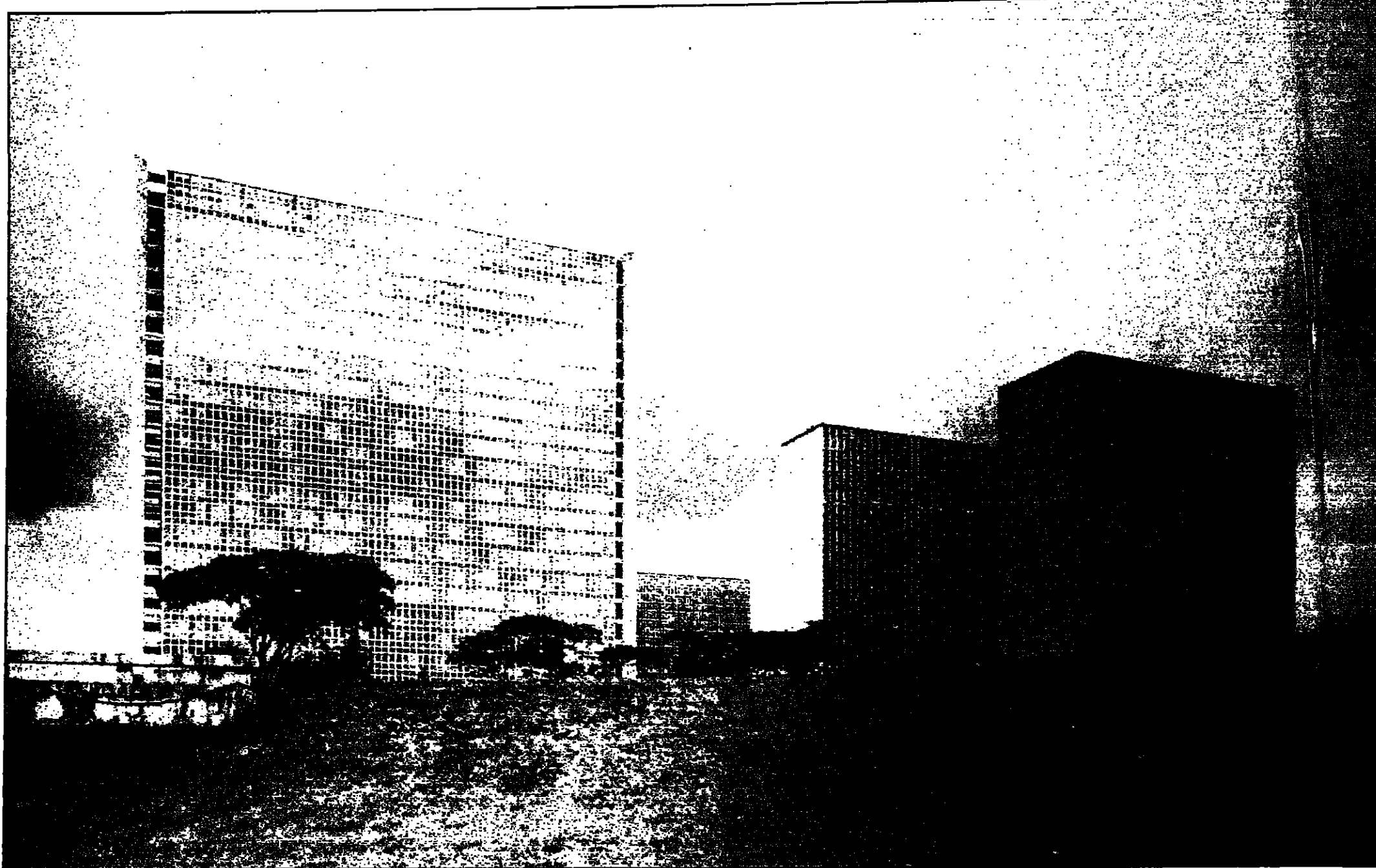
Back in 1988 the John und Shötte Gallery in Cologne put on an exhibition entitled Bernhard Becher's Students. It was a far-sighted show, featuring six young German photographers, four of whom – Andreas Gursky, Thomas Struth, Thomas Ruff and Candida Hofer – have gone on to notable success. Bernhard Becher, who, together with his wife Hilla, is himself renowned for the photographic taxonomy of the industrial world he has spent the last three decades collating, has since retired from his teaching post at Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie. He may no longer be grooming future generations of photographers, but the instrumental role that he, together with his wife and students, has played in transforming art photography from an inward-looking, ghetto-bound activity into one that is sought after by museums and galleries everywhere, cannot be underestimated.

A crude measure of their collective achievement can be seen in the number of exhibitions notched up between them. 1998 has already seen last year's Citibank prizewinner Andreas Gursky have a welcome if flawed one-man show at the Serpentine. The Bechers have just vacated Sheffield's Site Gallery. Both Struth and Ruff have recently had major retrospectives in Paris, and Jörg Sasse, another young Becher student (seen in the ICA's 1998 show *New Sightings*), is presently enjoying a second solo outing at New York's Lehmann Maupia Gallery. At any given time pieces by all of them can be found in group shows around the world, and later this month the Architectural Association is publishing a book to accompany an exhibition – *Reconstructing Space: Architecture in Recent German Photography* – that includes pictures by Becher and his wife, and work by 10 of his former students.

According to Becher, his was a hands-off approach, limited to telling his charges only what they should not do. He believes that those who went on to make names for themselves would have done so with or without him, as they arrived at the Akademie with strong ideas, strong personalities and a willingness to work. His modesty is sincere if not convincing, for it is a truism that the most promising pupils seek out the best teachers, understanding beforehand what they want to learn from their chosen masters. Besides, in the world of art photography the Bechers' reach has long stretched beyond the confines of Düsseldorf's campus.

In the early Fifties, when the Bechers were themselves students at the Kunstakademie, they found themselves at odds with the dominant abstract expressionism. Even though a tradition of strictly objective photography had been established back in the Twenties by August Sander, Karl Blossfeldt and Albert Renger-Patzsch, the post-war climate in Germany favoured a solipsistic, subjective approach to art in general and to art photography in particular – perhaps a subconscious way of deferring any painful scrutiny of the country's recent past.

By contrast, the Bechers' approach to their subject matter was, right from the outset, unblinking and direct. Photo-



'Brazilia - Banksektor Nord' (1994) by Andreas Gursky, Bernhard Becher's most celebrated pupil

graphing those structures that caught their attention head on and under neutral, overcast skies so as to avoid any confusing shadows, their intention was to establish utterly legible typological surveys of the blast-furnaces, mineheads, water towers and other constructions that are part and parcel of industrial landscapes. Their powerful body of work has been linked to several movements, including minimalism and conceptual art.

It is the photographs taken by his one-time apprentices that bear the clearest stamp of the couple's influence. In Höfer's pregnant, institutional interiors, in Struth's deserted streets and in Ruff's unflinching portraits, there is a methodological integrity that prohibits any subjective interference with what is being documented. It is the same integrity that is the overriding hallmark of the Bechers' output.

In 1975, the artist Lewis Baltz suggested that the ideal photographic document

would be one without author or art. Although the work of every one of these photographers is eminently recognisable, it is marked by a diminution of authorial presence that allows those things being photographed to speak for themselves. Yet paradoxically, because of the stillness of what is depicted, the subjects of their pictures also remain imperturbably mute and beyond description. The power of these austere, unromantic meditations on our world derives from their measured simplicity. Photography is fundamentally a recording device. In the hands of the Bechers and their students, whose various approaches are underpinned by a conceptual rigour that refuses both spectacle and pictorialism, it produces incontrovertible results that remind us of the ability of this medium to focus our attention on the facts.

Andreas Gursky's epic pictures of man projected into a matrix of his own making

are perhaps the most incontrovertible of the lot. The images generated by his God's-eye view of urban spaces, stock-exchange floors and hotel atria, are startling to behold. But since 1992 this one-time Becher student has begun to manipulate his photographs digitally. "I subjugate the real situation to my artistic conception of the picture," he recently told an interviewer. Where once unadulterated reality held sway, we are now shown a version of it as conceived by Gursky. Such a didactic attitude is a long way from the subtler Calvinist sensibilities of his mentors, who would never countenance any such imposition of an idea on to the object being photographed.

However, in this respect Gursky may be unique among the Becher students. Even the forthcoming Sasse's striking, painterly creations, which at first glance would appear to be little more than expressions of subjective conceit, are in fact no such thing at all. For Sasse's quiet interest is in the

forgotten corners and overlooked elements of other people's snapshots. These he digitally enhances and blows up to a size that makes us take note of an incidental zone that normally inscribes itself only in the margins of our vision.

Yet if Gursky has on occasion chosen to represent reality differently from the Bechers, he still remains in their camp. Three of Bernhard's students have made art a direct subject of their work. But while Hofer and Struth, with their pictures of crowded museums, remind us of its social function, it is Gursky, with his unpeopled photographs of paintings, who enters more specifically into a dialogue with its history. It is significant that to date he has only twice photographed works of art, the first a trio of Turners as they hang in the Tate Gallery, and the second, the same Jackson Pollock – *One, No. 31* – that Struth photographed four years before him at MoMA in New York. These paintings

exemplify a current that is the polar opposite to the straight photography practised by the Bechers and their followers. For Turner gave birth to a romantic and subjective vision that was to achieve its apotheosis nearly 150 years later in Pollock's abstract expressionist canvases. Another half-century on, Gursky is cast the dispassionate eye of the photographer in their direction. To borrow Marshall McLuhan's terminology, he has, by ringing these "hot" eruptions of subjectivity into the photographic frame, "cooled" them down. And in so doing he has continued the objective analysis of the world to which the Bechers have consecrated their lives.

*Reconstructing Space: Architecture in Recent German Photography* is at the Architectural Association, 36 Bedford Square, London W1, from 20 April to 1 May, Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-5pm. Admission free.

## On a wing and a prayer

IT COULD have been worse. Instead of sitting in the audience, I might have been one of the eight dancers wrenching my limbs into incoherent angles and spraying exhausted sweat with every pirouette. Or I might have been the soprano Eileen Hunter, standing at the back of the stage and adding irritating screeches to Tim Fleming's pretentiously grandiose music. I might even have been one of the bouncy beach balls that "symbolise passing energy and signify camaraderie between dancers" or an elastic ribbon "symbolising connection to their individual histories". Worst of all, I might have been the American choreographer, Dwight Rhoden, whose second piece this is for the all-black

**DANCE**  
PHOENIX DANCE  
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL  
LONDON

Leeds-based Phoenix Dance. *Peregrinations* is an unforgettable experience of epic length, ambition and twaddle. The programme declares it to be inspired by the dancers' experiences of living in Yorkshire, but that becomes lost in the rambling chaos, absurdly significant props and grating movement. *Peregrinations* does no favours to British black dance or to Phoenix's attractive and gifted dancers.

Yet the first half of the programme, consisting of three duets, had been so much more encouraging. Admittedly, the

middle one, *The Last Word*, was an irritant, choreographed by the company's director, Thea Nerissa Barnes. She offers up a tedious couple squabbling far too long around and on a poney stool that wheels about the stage. But Jonzi D's two girls in *Us Must Trust Us* are deftly and realistically drawn, part of his didactic agenda in presenting aspects of black society through gesture, dance and rap. What starts on a jolly note, with best friends swapping intimacies and jokes, and feeling enough trust to catch each other as they fall, darkens into suspicion and re-creation. One girl, who, it emerges, is pregnant by her friend's brother and wants an abortion, has burdened her



Phoenix Dance: a mix of promise and rambling chaos

friend with this confidence. Conflicting loyalties and anger now rips this friendship apart. Cornered, by Andile Sotiya

because of that, the most satisfying. The macho physiques of the performers, Gee Goodison and Hugh Davis, set us an intriguing contrast with their lithe, coiled grace and the sweetly soft music of the first section. I was gripped by the astonishing interplay of holds and smooth gymnastic movement. One man is lifted overhead by the other in a frozen running pose, or sits on the other's hands as he might in an airborne armchair. Yet the effect is never just empty dazzle. Cornered is a portrait of trust and togetherness as potent as Jonzi D's *Us Must Trust Us*, and with the added virtue of conclusion. This is the image of Phoenix that I hope will dominate its future.

NADINE MEISNER

## A tale of two prodigies

**CLASSICAL**

HAE-JUNG KIM/  
FREDDY KEMPF  
WIGMORE HALL  
LONDON

IT'S OFTEN hard to attach value to artists' biographies. Have you ever read one that didn't make you feel you were going to hear something special? The Korean pianist Hae-Jung Kim gave her Lincoln Center debut at 14, studied at the Juilliard School in New York, and won first prizes in two international competitions.

Her Wigmore Hall recital on Tuesday begged the question: what does all this mean? True, she was technically secure and played confidently in some demanding works, including Alberto Ginastera's *Sonata* of 1952 and Rachmaninov's *Corelli Variations*. Yet she conveyed little specific character, nor did she seem to listen to the quality of the sound she was making. The violently rhythmic, dissonant outer movements of the *Sonata* became turbid, not just through too much pedal, but because her attack was blunt. The climactic moments of the *Variations*, too, were like dense and quiet moments of the introduction. His balancing of harmonies in the Arietta was also a bit uneven.

He was fearless and capricious in Schumann's *Carnaval* – ardent in "Florestan", gaily flirtatious in "Coquette", and pleading in "Aveu". But adding extra notes to thicken the bass in the final March is a bad old habit, and even less forgivable in view of some of Kempf's sketchy chording.

ADRIAN JACK

The original version of Rachmaninov's *Second Sonata* hardly leaves room for editorial additions, and if Kempf didn't always give the most powerful passages their ideal brilliance and richness, his nonchalant melancholy in the quieter moments was seductive. Yet he didn't wallow in the slow movement and he made the whole work cohere as only a pianist with a big technique and real temperament can.

## Reality whipped into a delightful froth

THE AUDIENCE stood and cheered. How often, amid business plans and the drone of the audit, must regional theatre director's dream of reading such words. How pleasant then to be able to report from Lawrence Till's cash-strapped Octagon, which strives so hard to give its audience not just easy-listening theatre but breadth and challenge, that at the end of Charlotte Jones' new comedy last night the audience did so.

The successful, main-stage new play is the Holy Grail of contemporary theatre. What does *Martha, Josie and the*

**THEATRE**  
MARTHA, JOSIE AND  
THE CHINESE ELVIS  
OCTAGON THEATRE  
BOLTON

*Chinese Elvis* tell us of how others can be found? Forget the earnest pursuit of contemporary relevance. What that seeks is social typicality. What interests Jones is eccentricity. She relies not on sociological observation, but imagination.

Take *Martha* (the excellent Amy Tobin), who dominates the first 10 minutes. She is a de-

vout Irish cleaning lady for whom the war against household dirt is but part of a wider vigilance requiring, for instance, memorising suspicious cars. "Those number plates spoke volumes to me". Defended by a battery of ties, imprecations to the Trinity, repeated counting from one to five, and dreams of pilgrimages to Lourdes and Graceland, she leaps instantly and originally to life. More of a problem is what to do with her. Subsequently, *Martha* repeats herself before, too predictably, she undergoes a liberating metamorphosis.

Development is the play's main difficulty as the plot advances in sudden lurches. The first is the discovery that the suburban semi that Martha bleaches and deodorises is a house of ill-repute, in that its mistress, Josie (Ann Rye), is a dominatrix, albeit semi-retired and with "an artificial hip looming". Her one remaining "nappy-man", as her daughter with "meaning difficulties" Brenda-Marie (Debra Penny), calls him, is Lionel. Malcolm Hebden's mildly melancholy dry-cleaner. It is he who organises a birthday party for

Josie with an Elvis impersonator as surprise guest – the timid Timothy Wong (Paul Courtenay Hyatt). He does not organise the bigger surprise: the return of Shelley-Louise (Melanie Ramsay), Josie's other daughter, whom she has claimed to be dead.

That mother and daughter might be reconciled; that Martha and Lionel might find each other; that Brenda-Marie and Timothy Wong might strike the rapport of the lonely can all be seen from afar. But the sentimentality is cut by the generous absurdity of charac-

ter and action, and sometimes by a skewering wit. When Josie ends the inevitable big speech to Shelley-Louise, she remarks "that's the most I've ever said without a whip in my hand". This is not a casual joke. Earlier, Lionel has hymned Josie as the poet of the domination world, and in part the play is about the conjuring of fantasies by words. Although excessively frothy in places, it shows Jones to be an abundant wordsmith and imaginer.

JEFFREY WAINWRIGHT

Until 8 May, 01204 520661





Wendy McMurdo's 'Solo Violin, St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh' (1998); top right, 'Vanished!' (1998) by Brian Catling and Tony Grisoni'; bottom right: 'Wild Talents' (1997) by Susan Hillier

# The call of the weird

Inexplicable, disturbing, hinting at odd possibilities: the paranormal and contemporary art have a lot in common. By **Tom Lubbock**

**I** mean, for god's sake, we're living in the 20th century. In traditional horror films, there was always a man who used to say that. He was the sceptic. He was sure such things couldn't happen now. He was always wrong. In fact, if there was one clear piece of advice horror films dimmed into their audiences, it was this: should a man ever tell you that we're living in the 20th century and that bogeys do not walk the earth, don't believe him: bogeys do. Well, maybe. But even if true, as a general tip it doesn't seem very useful. After all, for most of us, how often does the bogey-question arise?

Yet we live in a culture absolutely saturated with fictional and fictional representations of the paranormal movies, *The X-Files*, the Spooky Movie of Carol Vorderman and all that. A fascination, certainly. But what level of belief, what kind of belief, does that imply? Or on the other hand, if few people really believe in it, but millions still lap it up, what does that mean? What needs are being answered? Might the fine arts help here?

**"E.S.P.—Contemporary Artists Investigate the Paranormal"** is a three-handed show at IKON in

**Birmingham.** Normally I'm very against thematic group-shows. But, as a theme for contemporary art, the paranormal is rare and curious enough to overcome the usual objections. Besides, one of the works here is a stunner: Susan Hiller's video installation, *Wild Talents*.

"Wild Talents" was the phrase coined by weirdness-researcher Charles Fort to describe human psychic abilities generally. He saw them as an untapped resource. Hiller's piece focuses on the supposed psychic powers of children. In a darkened gallery, there are two huge, floor-to-ceiling screens, meeting where two walls meet, and projected on each of them is a series of clips from quite recent films, some famous, some not, each showing children in assorted acts of levitation, telekinesis and general hell-raising.

You'll catch a glimpse of *The Shining* (the sea of blood from the lift), and *Pottergeist* (when the little girl makes contact with the TV People), and *Carrie*, and from something which must be a biopic of Uri Geller. Bodies and objects fly, cups of cocoa boil over all by themselves, and men catch fire. But the clips flash by fast, monochromed with single colour washes so they become almost a single film, your eye hav-

ing to flicker between the two screens, trying to take in both projections at once, the scary soundtracks having been sort of mulched together. You have a continuous, careering, not quite graspable reel of amazement.

The gallery literature seems to draw a media-studies moral from this – about the representation of children, and the way they're made out as either pure innocents or pure evil: quite off the mark, I think. The great coup here is that, released from their surrounding film plots, the clips move beyond good and evil, and beyond fact or fiction, into a realm of pure possibility – and the viewer does, too. The subject matter of the clips gets merged with the experience of them. You identify entirely with the children's powers. Watching this rolling sequence of fear and wonder is like being a child standing in a high wind, or a storm, or in the middle of a burning stubble-field, overwhelmed and caught up by these forces, revelling in them, feeling at one with them, and strangely in control of them. What *Wildly Talents* offers is a very persuasive simulation – far better than its source movies – of what it would feel like to have such powers. It's got awe.

That seems to be the overall

attitude to the paranormal in this show – as precisely that: the paranormal; the unexplained; a pure possibility of something bewilderingly other. *Vanished!*, an hour-long film by Brian Catling and Tony Grisoni, does that, dramatising, via talking heads, the “true” story of a family in the Thirties whose Manx home was visited by a strange, human-animal presence called Gef. (“Van-

*We live in a culture  
absolutely saturated  
with representations  
of the paranormal*

ished!" is what it said when its visits were over.)

Father, mother, and daughter each saw it, talked to it, and incorporated it into their lives. The press got interested for a while, but the story just peters out without climax, and you're left feeling that whatever you might say about it - hoax, collaborative fantasy, real haunting - is less interesting than the odd thing itself. Meanwhile, Wendy McMurdo's slyly manipulated photos make children into false doubles of them-

selves, or have them playing musical instruments that have suddenly, mysteriously, vanished from their hands. No clues.

It's not a bad attitude. Most people interested in the unexplained are really interested in explanations — either supernatural or psycho-sociological. Most films have to reach a conclusion. But one can put explanation on hold, and I suppose the visual arts, with fewer narrative obligations, are well equipped to do this. "Yes, Trudi — we know you saw something." That's the other thing the men always say. But to leave the matter exactly blankly, there, is a position we don't hear from too often.

At the National Portrait Gallery in London, there are more strange flickerings and perplexing claims. The Painter's Eye is a small and rather confusing exhibition which displays the first results of an art-science experiment whose subject is the artist Humphrey Ocean. While making a series of portrait drawings, Ocean's gaze was monitored by an eye-tracker, and his brain was monitored by a brain-scanner, and a movement-sensor was attached to his pencil. Wall texts and video screens show what happened. The "mystery of the creative process" is somehow the object.

I'm not sure what the tests prove, or what they might prove. An experiment with but a single subject is clearly in its early days. There

is clearly in its early days. There seem to be a vast number of ineliminable variables. The terminology is dubious. For instance, the one big result so far involves brain scans of Ocean doing one-minute drawings from photos, compared with those of unspecified "non-artists" doing the same task. They show that (surprisingly) Ocean used frontal, non-visual brain areas while the others used posterior, visual brain areas.

The comment is that the non-artists were "slavishly copying" the photos, but Ocean "was thinking" the portraits. Hmmm. The one-minute "slavish copies" aren't displayed, and I wonder if that's what we'd call them if we saw them. And what "thinking" means when you take the inverted commas away I don't know, but you notice that the experimenters don't use words like "formula" or "trick" or "style." And how far Ocean is a typical artist, and what "artist" is taken to mean, are obviously crucial questions, but hard to answer.

The whole project seems to rely on untestable judgements, viz that Ocean is a good artist, and quite a realistic one. Both are true, I think: Ocean's easily the best portraitist the

NPG has commissioned in recent years (see his Willie Whitelaw), and he does good likenesses. But these two things together conform to the experimenters' preconception of the artistic process: that information goes in the brain, gets arted up a bit, and comes out as a picture.

They wouldn't have wanted an artist like Frank Auerbach, because his portraits don't retain enough hard information; and they wouldn't have wanted one of those hack pavement portraitists who ply their trade round the back of the NPG, because there would be no question of "creativity". The basic problem with this experiment is that it's in a dodgy relationship to normal, non-scientific ways of talking about art – wanting to move beyond them, but wholly dependent on them. I don't know if there is a "mystery of creativity", but probed this way there's bound to be.

**'E.S.P. - Contemporary Artists Investigate the Paranormal'. IKON Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1. To 13 June, closed Mondays: free admission.**  
**The Painter's Eye: National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2. To 13 June. everyday: free admission**

# The secret life of milk and sliced bread

**THE SIGN** reads "Balham Eyecare Centre" and is flanked by two huge, wide-open blue eyes. Next door there's The Mixed Blessing Bakery, God's Time News Agent and Winner - Delicious Chinese Hot Meals To Take Away. Shop signs, the landscape of local high streets, even shopping lists, all have a deeply personal story to tell.

**In Neil Mistry's *Great Expectations***, which gathers together replica shop signs copied from small businesses in South London, the aspirations are there to be read. Generally full of self-praise, the shops talk themselves up by listing their subsidiary products and services in an effort to pull in passing punters.

"These are supermarkets on a very small scale," explains exhibition curator Paul Hedge. "These are

## REVIEW

**SHOP  
HALES GALLERY  
DEPTFORD  
LONDON**

little businesses pretending to be really big businesses, and you can tell that they are pretending. Arterial roads such as the A2 have died because no one can park there any more. The only ones that manage to cling on are the weird, mutant shops that sell everything at once."

Most of the artists in Shop have focused their work on this part of the capital and the picture they paint shows the frayed edges of the retail world where shopping is modest and small businesses struggle to survive. Myra Stimson trawls Tesco's in Lewisham in search of

discarded shopping lists which she paints up on a large scale using egg tempera - deliberately contrasting this time-consuming pre-Renaissance technique with today's throw-away society that sees old lists chucked to the ground after use.

"Two tins speggie bollonase [sic],  
Long loaf, 20 Birkley blue"; "creme  
franghe, tarragon leaves"; "cor-  
beef, pot noodle, Susan soap" -  
these strangely intimate lists con-  
jure up their absent owners and are  
punctuated with attention-grab-  
bing lines such as "Long live the  
king" and "Tell Jack to ring prison  
for onions". Whether scribbled on  
backs of envelopes, tiny scraps of  
paper, or written out meticulously,  
the lists make fascinating portraits,  
by turn funny, touching and be-  
traying.

The Old Kent Road, once a

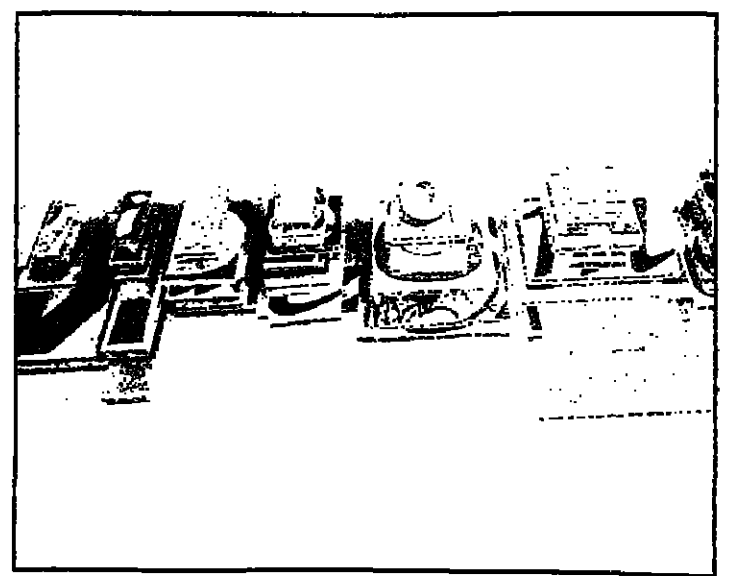
Roman road and now the Dome road, has been recreated with nothing more than chopped-up cardboard boxes. But to dramatic effect by Jane Wilbraham. Piles of brightly coloured letters run in a horizontal strip along the length of the gallery. When they are read from above, "fishpicheedinehaboldromesmpira tepicemayflower", the road's landscape comes to life as the shops pubs and businesses each get a mention by turn. Stand back from the work, which is placed a couple of feet from the ground, and the shadow cast by the letters forms itself into an inverse urban skyline.

In contrast to the local artists, New York-based Jill Henderson has chosen to look to the shopping malls of the future, as is typical of her work, presenting images of aspirations run riot. Her ramshackle,

scratchy pen-and-ink visions have a cartoon, sci-fi quality that takes the future of consumerism to a ludicrous extreme. Henderson's far-fetched, fantasy shopping malls appear as misshapen bulbous pods, perched on skyscrapers, or are seen clinging, precariously to their sides, linked by narrow tubes that are more suited to energetic gerbils than gravity-bound humans.

Outside the gallery, Deptford market is in full swing: stalls, grocery stores and backs of lorries all laden high in an area teeming with upbeat shop signs, hidden shopping lists and ambitious business aspirations. Surely, some things, however packaged, will never change.

**KATE MIKHAIL**  
70 Deptford High Street, London  
SE8 (0181-694 1194), until 14 May



**A detail from Jane Wilbraham's 'recreation' of Old Kent Road**



## MEDIA

## Will the BBC pick an outsider?

The first shots have been fired as candidates to take over as BBC director-general take their positions. By Paul McCann

If you want to be the next director-general of the BBC, you're too late. The first interviews began last week and, more importantly, at the weekend the first serious knocking copy about candidates started to appear. If no one has started knocking down your chances yet, it is probably too late to believe that the head-hunters are about to give you a call.

The process of shooting down the front-runner began in Saturday's *Times* with a piece meant to see off the chances of Greg Dyke, the cockney chairman of Pearson Television, and, significantly, the friend and supporter of the Prime Minister.

The *Times* revealed that Mr Dyke has made donations amounting to £50,000 to the Labour Party over the past five years and implied that a cronyism scandal would erupt if he were to get the job. The BBC is planning a strongly worded letter to the *Times* protesting its independence from government. Despite the fact that we have government by control freaks, and that everyone from Alastair Campbell to Charlie Whelan has claimed in recent months that they can influence who gets the job, the BBC insists its governors do the selecting, not ministers.

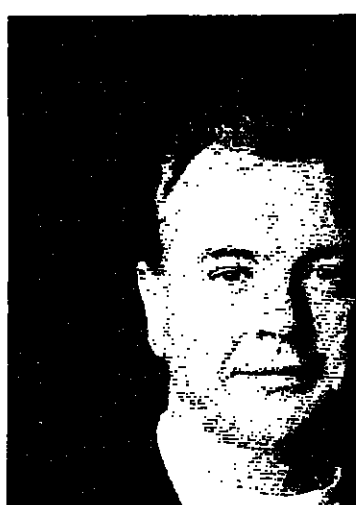
The attack on Dyke was timed to coincide with the first interviews being held by the governors' selection panel. This panel of four comprises the chairman Sir Christopher Bland, the vice-chairman Baroness Young, one of the three regional governors who represent Scotland, Northern Ireland or Wales, and one of the governors with a financial background – probably Sir David Scholey, who is an adviser to the merchant bank Warburg.

For a neat rebuttal to allegations of Labour cronyism it wouldn't hurt if it also includes the governor Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, a former senior civil servant at the Foreign Office under successive Tory foreign secretaries.

The governors' selection panel will be interviewing those who have reached them through head-hunters employed by the BBC for the first time. The use of head-hunters is noteworthy in itself.

First, it means the BBC has caught up with modern business practice and realises it is inappropriate for a personnel director to be responsible for the selection of their future boss. It is also an attempt to achieve greater accountability. This accounts for the placing of a job ad in a number of newspapers.

But, importantly, it is also a mark of the very strong field of candidates who this time come from outside the



MATTHEW BANNISTER 20-1

Since becoming extremely unpopular in the process of shaking up Radio 1, Bannister, 42, has moved on to become director of BBC Radio and currently chief executive of BBC Production. One of Sir John Birt's favourite sons, but has only spent only six months in television.



MARK BYFORD 4-1

Rapidly emerging as a leading internal candidate. A mere 40, he is currently chief executive of BBC World Service, and recently had to defend himself against allegations by John Tusa that he had allowed damaging cuts to the service (this could count in his favour).



GREG DYKE 7-2 FAV

At risk of becoming known as the cronyism candidate. Chairman of Pearson Television which owns a chunk of Channel 5, Dyke, 51, has a wealth of TV experience as a former MD of LWT and editor in chief of TV-am. Not really a programme maker, say his critics.



DAVID ELSTEIN 16-1

Currently chief executive of Channel 5, described as "tacky" by the ITC, should not be judged solely on Channel 5's faltering beginnings. The 54-year-old former director of programmes at BSkyB has proved himself as a smart scheduler and astute thinker.



RICHARD EYRE 10-1

Currently chief executive of ITV, he would not be the first director-general to have crossed the floor (John Birt was an LWT man). Eyre, 44, was the first media director of ad agency Bartle Bogle Hegarty before becoming group managing director of Capital Radio.



TONY HALL 5-1

The candidate with by far the most journalistic experience. Was deputy editor of the *Nine O'Clock News* at 34 and later editor of *News* and *Current Affairs* Television. Now 48, he has joined the BBC board of management. Set up Radio 5 Live and *News 24*.



PATRICIA HODGSON 16-1

The only woman in the race, she would also be the first female DG. The corporation's director of policy and planning, 52, is a fervent defender of the licence fee. But she has a past. She was a Tory activist. This is unlikely to help her get into the hotseat.



ALAN YENTOB 9-2

Recently declared BBC should not be concerned with ratings – several years too late, but at least he's saying it, and making a pitch to be champion of the integrity of public service broadcasting. Former controller of BBC2 then BBC1; now, at 52, director of BBC Television.

BBC. Not in living memory have the internal candidates had such a serious case of losing to an outsider.

Once the selection committee has whittled the applicants down to a manageable few, all-day interviews will be held in front of all 12 governors. Almost certain to get to this stage are the front-runners Dyke, Alan Yentob, director of BBC Television, and Mark Byford, chief executive of BBC World Service.

At this stage the BBC's love of continuity may become a more powerful force than anything that can be wielded by the Labour Party.

When Birt succeeded Michael Checkland in 1992 he had been deputy director-general for five years and had no serious competition. In 1987, Checkland himself was deputy to the ousted Alastair Milne, and so he defeated more glittering names such as Michael Grade, Jer-

emy Isaacs and Jonathan Dimbleby. Checkland succeeded because he raised the fewest objections from the largest number of governors. So it is here that Dyke's high-profile career outside the BBC may play against him, and into the hands of much more low-key candidates such as Byford.

The problem in forecasting the identity of the new director-general is that there seems to be no co-

herent strategy coming from the governors about what they see as being the BBC's future.

A commitment to the licence fee is about all they have been prepared to support publicly. As a result, David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5 and a long-odds outsider for the post, has had to switch from opposing the licence fee to supporting its retention.

One skill that everyone agrees the

next director-general ought to have is that of communication. Even Birt's admirers admit he alienated large numbers of BBC staff, not just because of his job cuts and casualisation of the workforce, but because of his penchant for management speak, which grated on an organisation proud of its creativity. Quite simply, he never communicated what he was trying to do. This should be a strike in favour of Greg

Dyke, a man who has presented television programmes and is an acknowledged charmer.

Given the state of the BBC's finances, the other thing the corporation needs is a commercial mind. Birt has done the hatchet-man job, cutting out the fat, or, as he puts it, "making efficiency savings" that have funded the BBC, while the licence fee has been increasing at less than the rate of inflation. But that stage has been done; in the private sector the next stage would be expansion and investment.

Assuming that the Government's task force on BBC funding headed by Gavin Davies is just another way of letting the BBC down easily, and huge increases in licence-fee income are not about to flow towards the BBC, the next director-general may have to be someone who knows how to exploit the BBC brand more successfully. This is why a coalition of commercial broadcasters, from BSkyB's Mark Booth to Kelvin MacKenzie at Talk Radio, and ITV have recently been lobbying to reign in the BBC's commercial activities.

They know the BBC has a fantastic brand that has so far been under-exploited. Birt realised too late that he had made billions of American broadcasters such as Discovery, which had used BBC programmes to build their businesses.

Now the BBC has started to launch global commercial networks in which it has a stake. It is talking about exploiting its news resources by publishing an international magazine to rival *Time* and *Newsweek*. It has put in place plans to double the amount of money it makes from spin-off toy sales.

All this activity worries not only those who fear the BBC as a competitor, but also those who consume its domestic fare and worry about its cutting its programme cloth to suit commercial needs.

But either the next director-general can win the battle for an enhanced licence fee – perhaps through a supplement of the licence fee for digital decoders – or they have the experience to expand the BBC's revenues from commercial activity.

Greg Dyke's connections with the Government could be seen as an ideal qualification for both battles.

Yet, internally, senior BBC executives are keen to remind outsiders that the director-general's job is one of two halves: one half chief executive and one half editor-in-chief. Greg Dyke, who moved into management after only a few years as a journalist, will find his future will depend less on the Tory press and more on how badly the governors feel they need an editor-in-chief.

## THE WORD ON THE STREET

THE MIRROR'S Piers Morgan is gracious in victory. "I feel truly humbled," he says, at the news that his paper has won a poll of its own readers to become "newspaper of the year". The victory, he admits, was hardly a surprise, after Saturday's *Mirror*, which asked readers to phone for the favourite newspaper, gave a slightly skewed description of its rivals.

According to the *Mirror*: *The Independent* wins lots of awards even though no one reads it outside Islington; *The Guardian* staff have to wear sandals and John Lennon glasses; the *Financial Times* has a secret motto, "If it's tedious we'll do yards on it"; and *The Sun* is "edited by an alien". "I intend to put 'Newspaper of the Year' across the masthead," maintains the increasingly loopy Morgan. He claims the fact that 30 per cent of his own readers voted for other newspapers was down to *The Guardian's* editor Alan Rusbridger "sitting at home hitting his redial button".

"Yes, I know I've lost the plot," he admits, "but it's got up everyone's nose."

THE DAILY STAR'S editor Peter Hill is clearly smarting under the news that when Chris Evans was planning to buy his paper he was also planning to replace him with the ex-FTM editor Mike Soutar. That, at least, is the explanation being offered inside the *Star* for an



announcement at an editorial conference last week that the paper is no longer going to run stories about the Ginger DJ. Now, if we can only get Evans to put a bid in for *The Sun* and *The Mirror* as well, we'll have a result.

PETER MANDELSON has obviously buried the hatchet with Lord Hollick after the *Sunday Express* interview with his Brazilian friend. The two were seen going off to lunch together from Ludgate House last week. Hollick has been busy making friends. *Sunday Business*, the Barclay brothers' title, is renting space vacated by *Star* journalists at Blackfriars so that its reporters don't have to schlep back to Docklands after lunch. Express Newspapers need to sublet space while *Sunday Business* expands in a clear indication of which way the wind is blowing in Fleet Street.

NATO'S SHAMOLIC handling of last week's air strike on a refugee column has

prompted Downing Street to order Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's personal spin doctor, to Brussels for a radical overhaul of NATO's press operation. In Brussels, Mr Campbell discovered to his horror that Jamie Shea, the NATO spokesman, was running his press office with a skeleton team of one. Campbell said Mr Shea had done a "brilliant" job, but needed to have his team strengthened. Accordingly, Julian Braithwaite has been seconded to Mr Shea from No 10 for the duration. Since Mr Campbell's arrival there has been better co-ordination of NATO's message that whoever is killed in Kosovo, the blame lies with Milosevic. One of Mr Campbell's strongest weapons in elections was the use of his rebuttal squad. It is likely that we shall soon see NATO start to unleash rebuttals as part of its media offensive.

THE CONFLICT in the Balkans has allowed *The Herald* in Scotland to roll out one of journalism's sillier by-lines. Ian Bruce has his name resplendent upon the title "Geopolitics Editor". This is even grander than John Simpson's title of World Affairs Editor for the BBC and almost as silly as the *Evening Standard's* "Shopping Correspondent". But in an earlier life, *The Independent* boasted an Inner Cities Correspondent, so we are hardly in a position to mock.

## War sells serious newspapers

## ANALYSIS

PAUL MCCANN

THE NATO bombing of Yugoslavia began only a week before the end of March, so it is still too early to say what the true impact of the conflict has been on newspaper sales.

Nevertheless some trends are emerging. The broadsheet dailies have had a better month than the popular market, while in the Sunday market only *The Independent* and *Sunday* and the *News of the World* managed to increase sales compared with February.

When Diana, Princess of Wales died, quality newspapers did better than tabloids, and some pundits believed that this phenomenon was owed to a rejection of the popular press by the public because of the manner of Diana's death. However, others saw it as a natural trading up by newspaper readers at the time of a big event – they simply wanted more information and a different type of news presentation.

Early indications from the Yugoslavia conflict may show this happening again. The BBC's news is attracting bigger ratings than ITV, so to make a crude comparison, broadsheets may also benefit. This effect will be exaggerated if a ground war begins and NATO forces start to suffer casualties. Many readers will not want their serious war coverage sharing pages with the latest soap star's love life.

As the conflict has progressed there has been a blurring of newspapers' editorial lines on the rights and wrongs of NATO involvement – the refugee crisis has moved the debate on to tactics and the need for ground forces. Although opinion pages were more divided in the first week – the week covered by March's figures – those opinions seem to have had little effect on sales. The *Express*, which was highly supportive of the Government and NATO, is down month on month by 0.5 per cent whereas the *Daily Mail*, which has been much more critical, continued its relentless rise, up 0.67 per cent.

But forces other than the war affected March's figures. *The Independent* won a series of industry awards which it promoted in an advertising campaign, both of which contributed to the largest month-on-month and year-on-year increase in sales in the broadsheet market. Indeed only *The Sun* registered better growth in March and *The Independent* is up 4 per cent on last year – giving the paper its largest market share since November 1997.

Neither the war nor a books for schools promotion, seems to have stemmed *The Times's* long-term decline. The *Thunderer* fell more in March than any daily paper with the exception of the ailing *Daily Star*. In January 1998 it was selling 95,000 more copies a day

than the 746,403 it is selling now. The benefit of the paper's price differential seems to be diluted with every passing month. The pattern of its decline has not been uniform. The paper's circulation fell for the first five months of last year before rising slightly after a promotional push. Then it fell every month for three months before more promotions brought the figures back up. This has been repeated at three-month intervals, but each time the promotion buys the paper fewer and fewer new readers.

At first sight *The Times* seems to need a lesson from its sister title *The Sun*. For the first time since Robert Maxwell owned *The Mirror*, *The Sun* is on sale at the same price as its great rival. Given that it has put on sales in

March – it was up 3.1 per cent for the month and had its first year-on-year sales increase for 30 months – this makes David Yelland look like a genius who can put on sales while raising the price of his paper. In fact the price increase helped fund an estimated spend of £14m on promotional give-aways and regional price cuts in the first three months of last year. Although 30p is *The Sun's* headline price, it has been on sale in Scotland for 10p, and has also been sold at a discount in Northern Ireland and in the Central ITV region of England. This has been combined with its "millionaires" game and the books for schools promotion.

*The Guardian* seems to have recovered after its six-month period of weakness in the second half of last year. It is back to hovering around 400,000 copies a day.

The slight redesign the paper unveiled yesterday is regarded as an attempt to safeguard that stability, rather than an effort to put on new sales.

Its sister paper *The Observer*, at 401,403, has fallen two months in a row from an advertising-supported high of 419,000 in January. As with *The Guardian*, stability is defined as around 400,000 copies.

Slightly more fraught must be the conversations at *The Sunday Telegraph*. Quietly, and without anyone noticing, Dominic Lawson's paper has dropped 50,000 sales a week since the beginning of last year. No Sunday broadsheet has picked up that many buyers, so we must assume that Lawson's paper has been funding the growth of the *Mail on Sunday*, up 70,000 in the same period.

*The Times* and *The Sunday Telegraph* have been the sales successes of the Nineties, wooing readers with price cuts and subscriptions offers. Now that those "bought" readers are seriously leaching away, a serious news story may have come just in the nick of time.

NATIONAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATION			
Daily newspapers	February 1999	March 1999	% change
<i>The Mirror</i>	2,301,499	2,303,510	+0.09
<i>Daily Star</i>	534,704	514,680	-3.74
<i>The Sun</i>	3,698,805	3,813,381	+3.10
<i>The Express</i>	1,091,790	1,085,550	-0.57
<i>Daily Mail</i>	2,346,502	2,362,184	+0.67
<i>Daily Telegraph</i>	1,043,653	1,045,336	+0.16
<i>Guardian</i>	400,600	402,494	+0.47
<i>Independent</i>	220,203	224,306	+1.86
<i>Times</i>	755,359	746,403	-1.19
Sunday newspapers			
<i>News of the World</i>	4,296,654	4,313,582	+0.39
<i>Sunday Mirror</i>	1,985,075	1,933,074	-2.62
<i>Sunday People</i>	1,662,080	1,620,105	-2.53
<i>Mail on Sunday</i>	2,326,195	2,319,272	-0.30
<i>Express on Sunday</i>	1,010,122	1,005,926	-0.42
<i>Independent on Sunday</i>	252,105	255,982	+1.54
<i>Observer</i>	406,937	401,403	-1.36
<i>Sunday Telegraph</i>	816,978	808,826	-1.00
<i>Sunday Times</i>	1,377,297	1,366,464	-0.79



There's money to be made from religious imagery, but when does the clever use of icons become blasphemous? By Clare Garner

# Crisis of faith in ad land

Copywriters looking for an easy short cut to fix a message in consumers' minds have been happily borrowing sacred images. Instant iconography is the advertising industry's stock in trade, and they can count on a strong reaction to an image such as a bishop smoking a spliff or a woman nailed to a cross. Sacred imagery has been used to sell products as various as watches, lager, stationery, tyres and jeans.

However, campaigns with a religious theme are increasingly falling foul of the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA), prompting more complaints from the public than any other style of advertisement.

Last month, Paramount TV withdrew its promotional advertisement for the comedy show *Drop the Dead Donkey*. The image of a donkey's head on the Turin shroud, accompanied by the slogan "Resurrected", provoked 182 complaints to the ASA. Heineken also recently pulled an ad that showed a Nativity scene and the headline "It's a girl".

Now a Catholic newspaper, *The Universe*, has launched a campaign to end the use of images that mock Christ. The latest example is Pirelli's current campaign showing the Brazilian footballer Ronaldo adopting the Christ-like pose of Rio de Janeiro's statue of Jesus. The posters have so far prompted 24 complaints, but the ASA is yet to adjudicate. *The Universe* is urging readers to lodge complaints with the authority about this or any other "blasphemous" advertisement.



Picture imperfect - above: Ronaldo's controversial campaign for Pirelli; below left: Diesel's 'unacceptable' jeans promotion; below right: the ad dropped by Heineken

The ASA received 95 complaints for an ad for Diesel jeans showing four young women dressed as nuns from the waist up, wearing jeans and holding rosaries. Behind them was a statue of the Virgin Mary, also wearing jeans. The caption said: "Pure virgin 100 per cent cotton. Soft yet miraculously strong..." The ASA ruled that it was unacceptable to depict nuns as sexual beings.

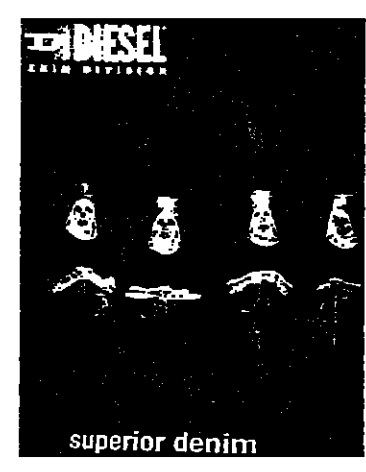
Independent research carried out last year for the ASA shows that feelings run high when it comes to religious references in advertising. Eighty per cent of those questioned said that disrespectful references to any religion should never be allowed. Many said they feared that Christianity was too often the butt of jokes, but the majority said that ads using gentle humour or mild religious references were acceptable. Mr Ballinger comments: "The ASA are not killjoys and we're not saying that using religion in a humorous way is a problem. However, when advertisers go too far and refer to religion disrespectfully, we have to

reflect the sensitivities of those who will find this offensive."

Dave Trott, creative director at Walsh, Trott, Chick and Smith, cannot see a problem with using religious imagery, provided that the reference is witty. "Dawn French put it best for me when she said: 'If it's funny, it is not bad taste, and if it's bad taste, it's not funny.' That's generally how I operate. I don't see why everything has to be tasteful. Our job isn't to make the public always like what we do."

Diesel's nuns advertisement "worked", in Mr Trott's view. "We don't want to go back to the days when we wouldn't do things just because it would offend some grumpy colonel in Sevenoaks. If you've got this all-powerful being which is supposed to be able to protect everybody for all eternity, why does it need to be protected by a couple of doxy human beings?"

Among the complaints upheld last year by the ASA were those relating to a Watches of Switzerland advertisement which used a picture



of a bishop smoking a spliff with the caption: "Good heavens! Isn't that a Baume & Mercier Hampton?" Last week an advertisement carrying the headline "Jesus Was a Vegetarian", alongside a portrait of Jesus with an orange slice as a halo, was displayed on a billboard in Amarillo, Texas. It caused an outcry and was removed within three days.

The record number of complaints received by the ASA for a single advert - 1,192 - came in 1995, when a leaflet for the British Safety Council showed a picture of Pope John Paul II in a safety helmet, with the slogan: "Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt always wear a condom." Rupert Howell, chairman of HHCL & Partners, believes that while advertisers must strike a "fine balance", religion should not be off-limits. "There's a bit of me that feels that the fact that we can be relaxed and lighthearted about our national religion is a sign of sophistication and development," he says. "The power of Jesus Christ has survived 2,000 years of turbulence. I think it can survive a Heineken poster."

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# Watchdog without teeth

The solicitors' regulatory body is ineffective, slow – and under threat. By Robert Verkaik

The Law Society and its under-performing watchdog, the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors (OSS), has less than three months to get to grips with a rising tide in the number of complaints brought against the profession. If the tide does not ebb by the time Ann Abraham, the Legal Services Ombudsman, publishes her report in June, solicitors may lose the right to regulate themselves and the OSS will be washed away. This was the thrust of Geoff Hoon's speech in the House of Commons last week when he introduced the second reading of the Access to Justice Bill.

Mr Hoon, the minister of state at the Lord Chancellor's Department, told the Commons that he thought the OSS was clearly failing, adding that Ms Abraham's report would confirm this. Firing an explicit warning shot across the Law Society's bows, he said: "We will not tolerate unjustified restrictive practices." Mr Hoon added: "It [the OSS] was set up in 1996 to deal with complaints of inadequate professional service, and of serious misconduct by solicitors. The Office is the most recent attempt by the Law Society to get their complaints system right. It replaced the Solicitors Complaints Bureau. Yet like previous attempts it has not delivered sustained improvement. There is a good deal of concern on both sides of the House."

Today's report by the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors is expected to show that the crisis at the OSS is deepening. Currently there are 9,000 complaints outstanding and there is a six-month backlog of new cases. Complaints are growing by nearly 100 a week. Last year 31,672 members of the public complained about their solicitor, compared with 23,453 in 1996.

It is understood that a number of back-bench MPs, led by the Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, angry at persistent complaints made by their constituents, have put pressure on the Lord Chancellor's Department to act.

A proposed amendment to the Bill includes provision to establish a new watchdog that would erode or even end self-regulation of the profession.



Flooding in the Stratford area waterlogged the OSS offices causing £1.5m worth of damage

bated by the mentality of some solicitors. Last year Ms Abraham was in correspondence with one who tried to argue that he was not a solicitor at all. In what amounted to a desperate attempt to escape a ruling made against him by the Ombudsman, the solicitor tried to prove that for the purposes of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990 he was not a solicitor and therefore outside the jurisdiction of the Legal Services Ombudsman. "This," points out Ms Abraham, "is an extraordinary example of defensiveness. He must have spent many hours coming up with this one. But frankly, if he had just written a cheque [to compensate the client] that would have saved us all a lot of time." The case itself was remarkably trivial. The solicitor had demanded payment from a customer for the trouble of going through his files. Ms Abraham says: "Those sort of examples may mean that I and the Government and opinion-formers lose patience with the profession, and self-regulation starts to look a bit shaky."

On this assessment the writing may already be on the wall for the OSS. Nevertheless, Mr Hoon did have some good news for the profession. Mr Hoon committed the Government to overturning a vote in the House of Lords to allow all properly qualified lawyers greater rights of audience. He said that, after six years of debate, consultation and advice, only a very small package of additional rights was given to employed solicitors.

A further boost was new powers to crack down on lawyers involved in possible fraud. The Government is now expected to announce a range of powers that will include the right to allow the OSS to raid solicitors' premises and search files. Currently the OSS can conduct raids only on a specific suspicion that a solicitor has stolen or misappropriated a client's money.

The Law Society has been pressing the Government to give it greater powers to intervene in solicitors' practices on a general suspicion of wrongdoing. The powers also include an increase in fines against solicitors who fail to deal adequately with customers' complaints. The question many solicitors must be asking themselves is: is this all too little and all too late?

## IN BRIEF

A JUROR'S ill-timed cough nearly cost an innocent man his liberty last week. The defendant Alan Rashid, 32, was jailed by mistake when a juror coughed as the verdict was read out.

The foreman of the jury said "Not Guilty" – but a juror's cough drowned out the word "not". Mr Rashid stood dismayed in the dock as the judge jailed him for two years for making a threat to kill.

He was taken down to the court cells to wait for the prison van. Judge Michael Gibson thanked the jury at Cardiff Crown Court for their efforts during the two-day trial and released them. But on leaving the courtroom, one of the jurors asked an usher why Mr Rashid was given two years after being found not guilty.

The official realised there had been a mistake and called everyone back to court. A very confused Mr Rashid was led back into the dock and told there had been a mistake.

LAWYERS ACROSS the country are expecting some pain and suffering on 26 April – dawn of the Woolfian era. Ill-prepared litigators can expect harsh treatment from judges who will refuse all excuses beginning: "I left my claims form at home." For the disorganised lawyer who fears the worst, the answer may lie in Birmingham where, on 26 April, personal injury lawyers are holding a seminar entitled "chronic pain and its management" – certainly an apt euphemism for the Woolf reforms.

A SOLICITOR from Northampton wants to know whether the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and

his wife are running a nice little earner in the conference marketing business. It is understood that Cherie Booth has been instrumental in persuading Hillary Clinton to cross the water to attend a conference on children and the law on 13 May, when the keynote speaker will be the Home Secretary, Jack Straw. Then, on 15 May, Cherie Booth tops the bill with an appearance at the Woman Lawyer Forum where she will be joined by another Labour leading light, Baroness Jay, leader of the House of Lords. Which leading conference consultancy is behind two of the biggest law meets of the year? For both events prospective guests are asked to contact Blair Communications and Marketing. Is it possible? Unhappily, a mere "coincidence", says Andrew Blair, the man behind Blair Communications, adding, with reference to the shared surname, "I'm afraid I was here first".

SOME LAWYERS' drafting skills leave a lot to be desired. But no one deserves the punishment meted out to one of the defence team representing Anwar Ibrahim, the former deputy prime minister of Malaysia. He received six years' imprisonment for alleged corruption, but his lawyer was given a three-month sentence for drafting an affidavit that made allegations about the conduct of the prosecution. With considerable understatement, Charles Fint QC, of the bar Human Rights Committee, said: "The ability of members of the Malaysian Bar to conduct the defence of accused persons has been seriously prejudiced."

ROBERT VERKAIK

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CLASSIFIED

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## THE 1999 ACCREDITED MBA



The year's most important business school forum for anyone contemplating MBA study. Not to be missed.

### The Accredited MBA fair

A comprehensive forum where you, among other prospective MBA students, can meet and discuss plans with representatives from leading UK and continental European schools. You will also be able to collect relevant literature and application forms from exhibiting schools. There will be 42 Business Schools represented at the Fair, all offering courses accredited by The Association of MBAs.

### Where you can talk directly

With admissions officers from leading UK and continental Business Schools and seek expert advice from members and staff of the Association of MBAs.

### Entrance is Free

There is no entrance fee for the Fair but admittance is by pre-registration only.

### Where and when?

The Fair will be held on Monday 10th May 1999, at The Institute of Directors, 116 Pall Mall London, SW1.

The start time will be 4:00 pm

If you would like to learn more about MBA study you should not miss this opportunity to be a part of this event. Call the Freephone Number below:

### Call The NatWest Free Registration Service:

**0800 854 369** or register on-line at: [www.mba.org.uk/reg](http://www.mba.org.uk/reg)

The Independent and The Independent on Sunday will be supplying a special MBA supplement at the Fair and in issues of the papers on the 6th and 9th of May.

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**THE INDEPENDENT**  
**THE INDEPENDENT**  
ON SUNDAY





# THE INFORMATION DAILY

CINEMA · THEATRE · EXHIBITIONS · MUSIC · DANCE · LITERATURE · COMEDY · EVENTS · TV & RADIO

## NEW FILMS

### ACTRESSES (15, 88 mins)

**Director:** Ventura Pons  
**Starring:** Rosa María Sarda, Mónica Escot  
Cult Spanish director Pons rustles up a goody-eyed bit of cinematic navel-gazing in this ode to the acting lark. Shot back in 1997 (before last year's art-house hit, *Carrañes*), *Actresses* details the earnest research of Pons's aspiring thespian - interviewing three diverse old hands (Rosa María Sarda, Mónica Escot, Anna Lizaran) about their life and times in the greasepaint trade. Part acting masterclass, part loquacious reminiscence, *Actresses* slowly stews in an ambience of oppressive theatricality. Its performers talk as if they're being paid by the word.  
**Repertory:** ICA Cinema

### HAPPINESS (18, 134 mins)

**Director:** Todd Solondz  
**Starring:** Dylan Baker, Philip Seymour Hoffman  
See *The Independent Recommends*, right.  
**West End:** Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Haymarket

### AN IDEAL HUSBAND (PG, 100 mins)

**Director:** Oliver Parker  
**Starring:** Cate Blanchett, Minnie Driver  
Stuffed-shirt politico Sir Robert Chilren (Jeremy Northam) is being held to ransom by Julianne Moore's brittle blackmailer. Wife Cate Blanchett looks on in horror, while louché Rupert Everett and effervescent Minnie Driver provide the comic relief. And so it goes. Oliver Parker's film is a proficient but oddly mechanical overhaul of Oscar Wilde's still-pertinent satire of middle-class hypocrisy - the friction between the public and private sphere. The sharp dialogue is rather blurred by the snappy editing and sumptuous design, but bright playing from a starry cast helps to paper over the cracks.  
**West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham

### AMERICAN HISTORY X (18, 117 mins)

*American History X* is a liberal essay on right-wing fanaticism, which nonetheless indulges in some dubious Nazi chic.  
**West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### ARLINGTON ROAD (15, 117 mins)

Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller stars Jeff Bridges and Tim Robbins.  
**West End:** Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### AN AUTUMN TALE (U, 111 mins)

The final part of Eric Rohmer's *Tales of the Four Seasons* is airy elegiac and as warm as sunshine.  
**West End:** Curzon Menzies, Renoir

### BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS (15, 96 mins)

The latest offering from *This Life* school of British film-making sees Kevin McKidd's giddy Londoner being put through all manner of romantic hoops in the run-up to his 30th birthday.  
**West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Fulham Rd, Repertory: The Fulham Everyman

### BLAST FROM THE PAST (12, 111mins)

Hugh Wilson's workmanlike Cold War satire starring Brendan Fraser.  
**West End:** Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### CENTRAL STATION (15, 110 mins)

Central Station trails Fernando Montenegro's retired schoolteacher and her abandoned nine-year-old charge on a hunt through the badlands of Sertao for the boy's missing father.  
**West End:** Curzon Mayfair, Ritzy Cinema

### A CIVIL ACTION (15, 115 mins)

John Travolta's ambulance-chasing lawyer takes a shot at redemption in this complex and frequently absorbing courtroom saga.  
**West End:** Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

### THE FACULTY (15, 104 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
**West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### GODS AND MONSTERS (15, 105 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
**West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Metro, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, Watermans Arts Centre

### HIGH ART (18, 102 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
**West End:** Curzon Soho, Odeon Camden Town, Ritzy Cinema

### LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG, 114 mins)

Roberto Benigni's Oscar-winning comedy about fascist Italy and the death-camps.  
**West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, And local cinemas

### MIGHTY JOE (PG, 114 mins)

This children's comedy is disposable Disney fluff, yet it boasts a ready charm that's hard to dislike.  
**West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

### Picture House, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, The Tricycle Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road And local cinemas

### PROMETHEUS (15, 130 mins)

**Director:** Tony Harrison  
**Starring:** Michael Feast, Walter Sparrow  
Tony Harrison's dense and literate film-poem kicks off with a visit from Hermes (Michael Feast) to a depressed mining town in Yorkshire, before moseying off through the smogstack landscape of polluted Eastern Europe. Harrison's rigorous, locomotive verse stokes an awkward and overwrought narrative updating Aeschylus's *Prometheus Bound* into life, but it's still too long, too ill-paced, too heavily handed in its eco-conscious message. Two hours in, and those rhyming couplets start to grate a bit.  
**West End:** Notting Hill Coromet

### RETURN TO PARADISE (15, 100 mins)

**Director:** Joseph Ruben  
**Starring:** Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche, Joaquin Phoenix, David Conrad  
Eden takes on a definite whiff of sulphur in the course of Joseph Ruben's fact-based saga, as two strutting graduate travellers (Vince Vaughn and David Conrad) are impelled to return to the scene of their former crimes when an erstwhile buddy (Joaquin Phoenix) is busted for drugs possession in Malaysia. A classic morality play in the "what would you do if?" mould, *Return to Paradise* still conspires to bungle its ready-made drama. Opening out as a taut marriage of *Midnight Express* and *The Beach*, its inherent tension seeps away throughout a pedestrian second half. A love angle between Vaughn and Anne Heche's earnest defence lawyer looks tacked on as an afterthought.  
**West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### NÓ (15, 85 mins)

Robert LePage's third feature obliquely spotlights Quebec's push for independence in 1970 with an absurdist parallel that crosscuts between the trials of a troubled actress and her activist boyfriend. But its fascinating elements fail to get, its scenes unravel; its reach exceeds its grasp.  
**West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

### PAYBACK (18, 110 mins)

Based on the source novel that inspired John Boorman's *Point Blank*, this rumbling revenge thriller sees his double-crossed-and-left-for-dead anti-hero (Mel Gibson) on a mission to get even.  
**West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### PLUNKETT AND MACLEAN (15, 100 mins)

Plunkett and Maclean (Robert Carlyle and Jonny Lee Miller) are radical Dick Turpins cutting a dash through 18th-century society. Instead of a decent plot, director Jack Scott offers noise, colour and virtuosic pro-promo visuals.  
**West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

### THE RED VIOLIN (15, 132 mins)

François Girard's daisy chain of historical vignettes follows the course of a cursed violin down the centuries. Unfortunately, a thrif-shod budget leaves many of the period backdrops looking like cast-offs from a BBC schools programme. More crucially, Girard's bitty narrative leaves the film labouring in third gear throughout.  
**West End:** Barbican Screen, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Swiss Cottage, And local cinemas

### THE RUGRATS MOVIE (U, 80 mins)

Kids, no doubt, will eat this feature-length cartoon up. Adults should simply grin and bear it.  
**West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End, And local cinemas

### SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15, 123 mins)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.  
**West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, And local cinemas

### GATE NOTTING HILL (15, 99 mins)

Even if slam-poetry's clanking rhymes make you want to "slam" the perpetrator's head in a car door, Marc Levin's drama still carries an emotional force.  
**West End:** Metro, Ritzy Cinema, And local cinemas

### TEA WITH MUSSOLINI (PG, 117 mins)

Franco Zeffirelli's *Tea with Mussolini* is a typically loquacious tale of three dotty Brits (Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright) adrift in Mussolini-era Tuscany.  
**West End:** Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, And local cinemas

### THE THIN RED LINE (15, 170 mins)

This rattle-bag of a black comedy is just too air-brushed for its own good.  
**West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero

### WAKING NED (PG, 91 mins)

This rattle-bag of a black comedy is just too air-brushed for its own good.  
**West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero

## THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

### THE FIVE BEST FILMS

#### Gods and Monsters (15)

A droll speculation on the last days of 1930s horror auteur James Whale (Ian McKellen), who is hypnotised by the alluring form of his Beverly Hills gardener (Brendan Fraser). Director Bill Condon won an Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

#### Happiness (18)

Set in New Jersey, Todd Solondz's second film is a comedy of loneliness and sexual deviancy that reaffirms this young writer-director's talent.

#### High Art (18)

A portrait of the artist as lesbian screw-up, Lisa Cholodenko's bitterly witty take on New York living (and dying) boasts one of the performances of the year from Ally Sheedy (right).

#### The Faculty (15)

Kevin Williamson does it again with this sci-fi tale of alien invaders. Beautiful people, a sharp script, subversive morals, Piper Laurie... Why can't all teen films be like this?

#### Shakespeare in Love (15)

This enjoyable, Oscar-laden historical romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (Best Actress) head an impressive cast.

ANTHONY QUINN AND CHARLOTTE O'SULLIVAN

### THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

#### Good

(Donmar Warehouse, London)  
Starring Charles Dancer, CP Taylor's play about accommodations with conscience is revived in a sensitive production by Michael Grandage. To 22 May

#### Uncle Vanya

(Mercury Theatre, Colchester)  
David Hunt's quietly considered and beautifully paced production of Chekhov's tragedy is a triumph of understated emotion. Do not miss. Ends Sat

#### Forbidden Broadway

(Jermyn Street Theatre, London)  
Deliciously spiteful and tremendously funny selection of musical theatre spoofs from Southend to *The Lion King* via Elaine Paige. To 16 May

#### Volpone

(Swan Theatre, Stratford)  
Comedies don't come any funnier or more astringent than Ben Jonson's brilliant dissection of avaricious, over-reaching egotism. To 9 Oct

#### A Midsummer Night's Dream

(Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford)  
In Michael Boyd's beguiling staging, Josette Simon's Amazonian Titania (right) is sex-on-verry-long-legs and could devour Tina Turner for breakfast. To 9 Oct



PAUL TAYLOR

### THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

#### Jackson Pollock (Tate Gallery)

Big, revelatory retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master), legendary for his great drip paintings, but virtually unknown here for 40 years. To 6 Jun

#### Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)

Some of the smartest, most intense portraiture ever. Men as icons of power, women as exquisite *melanges* of flesh and fabric. Ends Sun

#### Thinking Aloud (Camden Arts Centre)

Sculptor Richard Wentworth curates this curious and cheering exploration of creativity in art, design and life: an assortment of rough drafts, doodles, try-outs and models. To 30 May

#### Andreas Gursky (Dean Gallery, Edinburgh)

Photographs 1994-98: huge, high-finish, micro-jittered, digitally manipulated images of our world - stock-exchange floor, cityscape, hotel foyer. Vistas of more than the eye can see. To 16 May

#### Antony Gormley's 'Field'

(firstsite at Roman House, Colchester)  
One of the great hits of the decade: a sea of 40,000 pint-sized clay men (right) - obedient, expectant, menacing, and stopping in a line at your feet. To 23 May



TOM LUBBOCK

### CINEMA

#### WEST END

#### ABC PANTON STREET

(0774-920404) • Piccadilly Circus  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm  
The Opposite of Sex 1.25pm, 3.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ABC PICCADILLY

(071-437 3581) • Piccadilly Circus  
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
The Central Taxis 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

#### ABC SHAFESBURY AVE

(0774-902 042) • Leicester Square  
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### BARBICAN SCREEN

(071-638 6661) • Moorgate  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### CHelsea Cinema

(071-351 3742) • Sloane Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(071-498 3323) • Clapham Common  
Bedrooms and Hallways 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm

#### CURZON MAYFAIR

(071-369 1720) • Green Park  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### CURZON MINEMA

(071-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### CURZON SOHO

(0774-734 2255) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### EMPIRE LEICESTER SQ

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### GATE NOTTING HILL

(071-727 6705) • Notting Hill Gate  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0774-902 043) • Camden Town  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON KENSINGTON

(0774-902 043) • Kensington  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0774-902 043) • Marble Arch  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON MEZZANINE

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### ODEON WEST END

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### PEPSI IMAX CINEMA

(071-494 4151) • Piccadilly Circus  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### PLAZA

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### RENOIR

(071-351 3742) • Sloane Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### RITZY CINEMA

(0774-902 043) • Leicester Square  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm

#### SCREEN ON BAKER ST

(071-437 3581) • Piccadilly Circus  
Elizabeth 1 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Festiva 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm  
Milly and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 7.25pm, 9.25pm











